Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Algeria

An "extremist wing" of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) is reported to be reorganizing itself in the French suburbs of Paris, Marseille, Lyon, and Roubaix, according to a French newspaper report cited by Algiers radio. The FIS members are reportedly carrying out their activities under the cover of the Algerian Brotherhood Association.

Sudan

The government has "irrefutable" proof that Saudi Arabia is supplying weapons to the rebel movement in the south, according to a "responsible official source" cited by SUNA.

Iraq

The Yugoslav charge d'affaires in Baghdad has accused the United States of "conspiring" to "weaken and fragment" Yugoslavia, INA reported. During a meeting with the Iraqi defense minister, the envoy said Washington is trying to "end Yugoslavia's influential role in the Nonaligned Movement," the press agency added. Referring to the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia, Defense Minister al-Majid assured the envoy that "Yugoslav assets on Iraq's building sites are protected and they will remain so," Belgrade's TANJUG press agency added. In another development, the Kurdistan National Council held its first meeting in Irbil on 4 June, according to the clandestine Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan. Mas'ud Barzani, Jalal Talabani, and media representatives attended the meeting.

Afghanistan

"Intense fighting" was reported in central Kabul on Friday, 5 June, in spite of a truce signed the night before. AFP reported that battles raged with "tanks, rockets, and cannons." A Wahdat spokesman was quoted as saying "the Wahdat and the Harakat are now allied against the Ettehad." The spokesman added that Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami faction "said it would not send its troops to fight" against the Wahdat and Harakat.

Israel

Air Force planes attacked a "terrorist target" said to be the headquarters of PFLP-GC head Ahmad Jibril in South Lebanon, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The report noted that Jibril's organization assumed responsibility for a recent ambush on an Army convoy. In response to the raid, Israeli naval boats were fired on from the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp near Tyre 5 June, according to Jerusalem International. According to the report, "hundreds of armed Palestinians" have deployed to defend against a seaborne Israeli attack. In a related development, "political sources in Cairo" cited by HA'ARETZ reported that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent an "urgent message" to Prime Minister Shamir on 4 June warning that a new war could break out "if Israel continues the raids in south Lebanon." Prime Minister Shamir's office denied that any such message had been received. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shamir said the government will decide "in the next few days" on whether to further extend the closure of the Gaza Strip, according to Jerusalem radio.

Jordan

The medical team supervising Yasir 'Arafat's treatment said that the Palestinian president is recovering quickly and that he is expected to leave the hospital "within 48 hours," Amman TV revealed.

Iran

Tehran radio cited a statement by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Edward Djerejian calling for "direct" Washington-Tehran talks and calling Tehran's support for Hizballah a "serious problem."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Urges UN Protection of Palestinians

NC0406154192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The Arab League today strongly condemned Israel for its insistence on violating international laws and charters, escalating violence and terrorism against Palestinian citizens in the occupied Gaza Strip. The Arab League demanded that the international community force Israel to comply with international legitimacy's principles and resolutions, particularly the Geneva Fourth Agreement and human rights documents.

This was contained in an Arab League statement today, calling on the international community to send UN forces to protect civilians in the occupied Arab territories and to help the peace negotiations to succeed and establish security and stability in the region.

Lebanon Requests Arab League Meeting

NC0406150992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] At 1400 today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz telephoned Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to tell him of the Lebanese request for a meeting to discuss the south. Buwayz believes the Arab League Council's upcoming meeting will concentrate on the situation in the south and on activating the Lebanese support fund.

Palestinian Affairs

Further on PLO Chairman 'Arafat's Recovery

Doctors Bar Visits

NC0406184392 London MBC Television in Arabic 1822 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Mu'tazz al-Silawi dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, Palestinian president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has been recuperating at the al-Husayn Medical Center for four days now.

Today, doctors banned visits. 'Arafat was also banned from doing anything or from making any telephone calls and was asked to have complete rest, to avoid any complications that might affect his health.

Palestinian leaders who arrived from Tunisia and Jordanian officials continue to come to visit 'Arafat.

Mrs. Suha al-Tawil, wife of the Palestinian president, visited him today. In her first statement since she married 'Arafat, she told MBC:

[Begin recording] [al-Silawi] Sister Suha. The wife of the Palestinian president is the ideal person to assure the Palestinian people. How do you assess his health now?
[al-Tawil] His health is excellent. Thanks be to God.

[al-Silawi] What is your feeling when you see people come to visit him?
[al-Tawil] Great. We assure the Palestinian people that his health is very good. We thank His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people for taking care of him. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Sources at the al-Husayn Medical Center hospital said that if this improvement in Yasir 'Arafat's health continues, it is possible he will be discharged from the hospital within the next 24 hours.

'Arafat in 'Good Health'

JN0506083492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jun 92 pp 1, 18

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Excerpts] Amman—Visitors to the al-Husayn Medical Center were surprised at the arrival of His Majesty King Husayn on a motorbike yesterday evening. His majesty visited Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and reassured himself about the health of the Palestinian leader following the surgery he underwent at the center last Monday. [passage omitted]

Major General Dr. Yusuf al-Qusus, director of the Royal Medical Services and head of the medical team supervising 'Arafat's treatment, noted that visitors to 'Arafat were banned the day before yesterday due to the many people and telephone calls that have prevented him from enjoying a quiet sleep.

Dr. al-Qusus said: To ensure his comfort we, as a team, ordered 'Arafat not to carry out the work he used to do.

Mrs. Suha al-Tawil expressed her deep thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people for the assistance and care 'Arafat has received. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Bassam Abu-Sharif, the Palestinian president's political adviser, said that 'Arafat is in good health. He added: 'Arafat had a long conversation with His Majesty King Husayn in our presence dealing with a number of important political issues. The Palestinian president appears self-composed and has regained his strength.

He said that the intensive medical care provided by the proficient medical team at the al-Husayn Medical Center has led to a complete healing of the wound.

Responding to a question, Bassam Abu-Sharif said that the Palestinian president will remain in Jordan for a few days after he leaves the hospital for talks with His Majesty King Husayn and his brother members on the Palestine National Council. [passage omitted]

PLO officials have said that 'Arafat will not meet with reporters and photographers until all the bandages are removed from his head.

PLO Said Preparing for Elections in Territories

TA0506125692 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Jun 92 pp 1, 15

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned that on the basis of a promise by the U.S. Administration to Amman, high-level coordination between Jordan and the PLO is being conducted to prepare for elections that are to be held in the occupied territories in October.

Palestinian sources in Amman said that the suggested elections are a refined version of the municipal elections that the Israeli side proposed in the last round of bilateral negotiations and which Washington encouraged the Palestinians to treat positively.

These sources explained that such an approach requires further coordination with Syria as well to unify the Arab position, preserve the collective interest, and to prevent any Arab party from reaching humiliating peace agreements with Israel.

The sources stated that the PLO has reached total agreement with Jordan and Syria about the need to remain patient and to continue the bilateral negotiations at least until October—the date set by the U.S. Administration for launching the interim self-government phase. The Arab parties reserve the right to transfer the entire issue to the Security Council in the event that no results are achieved after a period exceeding the basic timetable agreed on with Washington.

PFLP-GC Says Israelis Targeting Villages

JN0406172792 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1652 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued a military statement, which reads: At exactly 1300 today, Thursday, 4 June 1992, Zionist planes fired four guided missiles at the PFLP-GC's social services center in al-Rashidiyah camp, inflicting material damage on the center and nearby houses and wounding two civilians.

The statement adds: The Zionist enemy has lost its nerve from the heavy losses it sustained as a result of the qualitative operation and other operations that have been conducted by the national and Islamic resistance and the heroic fighters in Arnun. In order to lift its soldiers' deteriorating morale, the enemy is targeting civilians in Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in the south. It is also pouring the fire of its rancor and racism on the heroes of the blessed popular intifadah in Palestine. This brutal aggression will only increase our determination to adhere to the course of armed struggle, reject all forms of negotiations or recognition of the Zionist enemy, and step up resistance and jihad until the entire Palestinian soil is liberated.

This is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

PLO Spokeswoman on Israel, Peace Process

PM0406152892 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jun 92 p 3

[Samir Nasif report: "'Ashrawi: Rabin Playing Dangerous Game By Proposing Israeli-Palestinian Agreement"]

[Excerpts] London—At a news conference yesterday morning in the British House of Commons, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, stated that the Palestinian leadership "does not neglect any political positions that contain positive aspects, whatever their source." This came in reply to a question about Israeli Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin's call for a start to negotiations with the Palestinians themselves and for a direct agreement with them.

'Ashrawi pointed out that "the peace negotiations proceed from clear points, and Rabin is playing a dangerous game and confusing matters between the Likud's intransigent position and the points on the basis of which the peace conference was launched and which call for the establishment of an independent Palestinian authority."

She said that the Palestinian leadership "hopes the elected Israeli Government will refer to the principal jurisdiction of the peace conference vis-a-vis the Palestinians' right to self-determination."

She added that "if the next Israeli Government wishes to bring about changes in the peace process, it must discuss the matter with the two states supervising it. This, because we and the Israelis cannot conclude the deal on our own or in isolation from the two organizing states, due to the imbalanace." [passage omitted]

She said that the Palestinian leadership hoped that Europe and Britain would be among the states organizing the conference, because London "played a part in the emergence of the Palestinian-Israel crisis, so it must play a role in resolving it," but Israel rejected that.

'Ashrawi described in detail Israel's brutal practices in the occupied territories. She said that the Jewish state "is trying to derail the peace process, and the ruling Likud party continues to reject the basic principle on which the peace conference was based, namely, relinquishing land for the sake of achieving peace."

She expressed her hope "for more Israeli seriousness regarding the peace process after the elections to be held in the Jewish state soon."

She said that the Israeli parties "are using the peace conference as an electoral tool instead of considering its importance for the future of the region's peoples."

She pointed to the need to establish a mechanism under the peace conference to curb Israeli violence against

Palestinian inhabitants during the negotiation period, otherwise Israel would succeed in obstructing the conference.

On the "assurances" that Israel is demanding from the Palestinians, she said: "Who should assure whom—the occupying state or the people subject to occupation?"

She emphasized that the "Palestinian leadership accepts the international assurances that secure protection—in any form—for the peoples of the entire region."

'Ashrawi condemned all forms of "violence against the innocent" when an Israeli reporter aksed her to condemn last week's violent incidents in Israel. She said that the interpretation of the factor causing the violence "does not mean that she supports it." However she pointed out that "tackling these factors would lead to eliminating violence in a better way."

Regarding amending the Palestinian national charter issued in 1964, 'Ashrawi asked: Why should we amend it before the negotiations are over, rather than once we have reached solutions? Did Israel or its extremist parties alter their positions on the treatment of Palestinians, settlement building, and the occupation of land before the negotiations? She added: "This would require the support of two-thirds of Palestine National Council members. If they consider the peace talks positive, they will decide what we should do."

She went on: "They are demanding that we act like a state with regard to amending out charter, yet they do not recognize our right to sovereignty and self-determination."

She added: "What is important is not my position—me, Hanan 'Ashrawi—but the position of the internationally recognized Palestinian authority." [passage omitted]

She said that "Jerusalem is as important to the Palestinians as it is to the Israelis, and there is no objection to regarding it as a capital for the two states in the future."

Answering a question, she said that she does not wish to succeed Yasir 'Arafat in the PLO leadership in the event of his stepping down or of his death. She wished him good health, because "he is the right man at the right time."

She said that she works in the academic field and does not want to confine her role to politics alone.

She said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] "represents a tendency in the Palestinian movement whose influence is affected by developments in the peace process. So if the latter fails, its role grows as a result of the people's frustration. If it succeeds, the tendency remains as a representative of a minority." [passage omitted]

'Senior' U.S. Official To Visit 11-15 Jun

TA0306161192 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Jun 92 pp 1, 15

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Amman—An informed political source in the Jordanian capital confirmed that the United States is working hard with all the parties concerned to activate the peace efforts.

He said a senior U.S. official will tour the region after 'Id al-Adha [holiday running from 11 June to about 15 June]. The official is to visit Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel to discuss the future of the peace process and the matter of convening the upcoming Rome round of bilateral negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

The source added that the United States prefers for the negotiations to be resumed after the Israeli elections on 23 June. He pointed out that the U.S. official will carry with him some new proposals to push forward the peace efforts. He will also discuss with Syria and Lebanon the possibility of their participating in the multilateral talks, and he will point out that the decisions of the five committees set up at the Moscow meetings will be binding on all the parties.

Editorial: U.S. Responsible for Gaza Situation

TA0406152192 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Gaza Strip's Blockade!"]

[Text] The appeal made by national figures two days ago at their meeting with foreign consuls in Jerusalem—which called for placing the occupied territories under international protection as well as for quick intervention for lifting "the military blockade" imposed 10 days ago on about 750,000 Gaza Strip residents—deserves to receive the proper attention, equal to that which the international community and human rights activists show toward other parts of the world. International interest in the Palestinian people should go beyond the framework of "appeals," which are no more than lip service to co-opt Arab wrath and an attempt to demonstrate concern for security and peace everywhere and at all times, whereas the visible truth regarding international behavior is totally contradictory to this, for we are witnessing a double standard.

The collective punishment to which our kinfolk in the Gaza Strip are being subjected should induce the UN Security Council and the cosponsors of the peace talks, especially the United States, to bear their responsibilities toward our kinfolk, whose rights are being shamelessly violated and whose freedoms stifled—rights and freedoms acknowledged by all international charters and norms.

It would be wishful thinking were we to call on the Security Council and the United States, which is guiding

this Council, to impose economic sanctions on Israel, just as they imposed them on Iraq and Libya and just as they are imposing them now against Serbia. The United States does not consider punishment legitimate and valid and the Security Council does not regard its resolutions as binding and necessary unless the matter concerns Arab states. If we wish to see Israel "actually" subjected to international sanctions we should have it join the Arab League. Perhaps, then, the U.S. Administration and the Security Council will hasten to impose international sanctions against it!

While we follow with interest and concern the situation of our people who have been subjected to a 10-day blockade in the Gaza Strip, we hold the U.S. Administration and the Security Council responsible for all the violations to which our people there are being subjected. This is because overlooking these Israeli practices is like sending a message to Israel to escalate its oppressive measures against our kinfolk in the Gaza Strip—something that is being affirmed by visible evidence. This also affirms the continuation of the double standard policy in dealing with similar issues.

Algeria

FIS 'Extremist Wing' Reorganizing in France

LD0506023592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], the party which was officially disbanded, is reorganizing itself in France. The establishment of its grassroots is taking place in the suburbs of Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Roubaix.

The report was disclosed today by the French newspaper VSD, which mentioned a number of personalities whom it described as Afghans belonging to the group Hijrah wa al-Takfir, the FIS' extremist wing. The paper said that they entered France illegally.

According to the same paper, the members of this group are carrying out their activity under the cover of the Algerian Brotherhood Association in France which distributes leaflets known as Friday's Pulpit inside Algerian circles in France.

Regarding the external finances of this party, the paper said that since it lost its financing sources from Saudi Arabia, it has been trying to reorganize itself with concrete finances through big Algerian traders who live in France, Spain and Italy.

The paper is pointing fingers of accusation to the Americans, as it discovered that they are greatly interested in polarizing this movement. It pointed out the increasing number of U.S. employees who are closely following FIS activity in Europe.

Socialist Front Leader on National Reconciliation

LD0406195192 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Farida Ayari, including recorded appeal by Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, for national reconciliation in Algeria; date and place not given]

[Text] On the eve of the 30th anniversary of our independence, it is insane that we are unable to open a dialogue to turn the page. We issued a statement yesterday calling on the authorities to commit themselves to facilitate a climate of dialogue by closing the security camps, releasing prisoners of conscience, bringing before civilian courts, with all guarantees, those prisoners who have committed offenses, commuting death sentences to prison sentences, and respecting human rights and public liberties. This is for the climate of dialogue.

Second, the authorities must open a dialogue with the opposition by committing themselves to accept alternating power and endeavor for a resumption of the electoral process. The transitional stage will be run by two institutions: a neutral government made up of politically minded, but not partisan, personalities; and, a national conference in charge of monitoring the transitional. The latter would have to be a joint body made up of equal numbers of representatives of the authorities and of representatives of political formations and representative social forces.

The participation in the National Conference in charge of Monitoring the Transitional Phase will be conditioned by the acceptance of a national contract for democracy.

Ben Bella Calls for Dialogue, Reconciliation

LD0506040892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Dialogue and reconciliation is an urgent call launched these days by prominent political formations in the arena. The different political forces returned to activity recently, and the work is crystalized in the form of coalitions, and despite the differences between some leanings, the desire to maintain agreement for the sake of national unity is prominent in the parties' activity.

Former President Ahmed Ben Bella, who moves within the G7, renews his call for national reconciliation. Today in the Mira program on national radio, he insisted on his idea, and called for the opening of a national dialogue, and expanding it for all political forces, and the different parts of the civil community. This is part of what he said:

[Begin Ben Bella recording] The reconciliation idea is not that of the Seven only; those Seven called for the participation of all forces, and not only a dialogue, we are for a dialogue with the government, and for a dialogue with the parties. We are not content with dialogue with the parties only, but with all the forces. There are the mojahedin, the martyrs' sons, women's associations, laborers, and civil institutions. Brothers, we should expand and move, we must stay for a month, and move for a month; for God's sake we must economize on time, and at the same time the atmosphere will change, because the atmosphere needs changing.

The truth is that the issues could be summed up in a number of points: The first and the most essential point is national reconciliation. We would like this reconciliation to stop these gatherings and also to stop these trials. We would rather they did not take place. But at the same time, frankly, if there were acts of disturbance, we want a strong authority. We want it to be a state. We face this with severity. We are for this. But justice exists, that is, we are for the services which can perform this work. We are for stability and security. [end recording]

On the other hand, Ben Bella affirmed that President Mohamed Boudiaf has an opportunity to save the country from the crisis it knows in the different spheres, on condition that he stays away from all the parties and works toward reunification. Ben Bella also called for the formation of a national alliance government whose mission is to embody a national reconciliation and prepare for the forthcoming presidential elections.

The activity of another well-known party, Socialist Forces Front [FFS], is aimed toward the same interest:

[Unidentified correspondent] The leader of FFS, Hocine Ait Ahmed, called for the opening of a true dialogue in the country and the formation of a transitional government led by neutral men to overcome the current political crisis. Ait Ahmed appealed to the authorities to issue a historical statement on national reconciliation by encouraging dialogue, starting from the closure of security centers, and the freeing of all prisoners of conscience. Ait Ahmed renewed his earlier suggestion by making the 30th independence anniversary, 5 July, a day for the embodiment of national reconciliation.

Egypt

Musa Expresses Hope for Dialogue With Iran

NC0406140092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the main topic on the agenda of the Islamic foreign ministers emergency meeting in Istanbul on 17 June is Bosnia-Hercegovina and the need to protect the people there, Muslim and non-Muslim. He said several other issues of interest to the Islamic world are also expected to be discussed.

On Egyptian-Iranian relations and whether they will soon improve, Musa told reporters today that Iran is a neighboring Muslim state, with which it is important to have good relations. He said Egypt hopes to establish a dialogue between the two countries so that each can explain its stand and the two can reach a soundly based, common understanding.

The foreign minister noted that Egypt is continuing to try to find a peaceful solution to the Libyan-Western crisis. He hoped the ongoing efforts would ease the situation and help reach an appropriate agreement for implementing Security Council Resolution 731.

Reports on Palestinians Crossing Border Denied

NC0406153892 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 31 May 92 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Text] Major General Hasan al-Ajhuri, assistant interior minister and director of the Port Security Department, has denied Israeli radio reports that Palestinian fedayeen crossed the Egyptian border to Elat and killed an Israeli soldier. He said: Officers at the Tabah crossing heard intensive gunfire in the Elat area at 0600 yesterday; 30 minutes later the Israeli forces closed the Tabah post on the Israeli side and adopted stringent security measures in the area.

The Port Security Department director said the fedayeen group which attacked the guards in Elat arrived on a boat and one was killed during the clash. He stressed that the Israeli authorities stopped people crossing at Tabah, reopening the gates three hours after closing them.

Envoy to Yugoslavia Departs Due to Resolution

NC0406113492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 4 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Belgrade Dr. Husayn Hassunah left Belgrade today for Cairo in implementation of Egypt's decision to withdraw its ambassador in Belgrade in compliance with the UN Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro. On his departure by land, due to the suspension of air flights from and to Belgrade in compliance with the Security Council resolution, Hassunah said that Egypt's decision to withdraw its ambassador from Belgrade reflects the government's and people's denunciation of Serbia's and Montenegro's position on the bloody tragedy in the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Political Prisoners' Families Form Committee

LD0506081792 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpt] In Morocco, families of political detainees and of those who have disappeared are planning to form an Action Committee. They announced this during a news conference yesterday. Here are some explanations by Mohamed Sahib, whose brother is detained:

[Begin recording] According to the figures at our disposal, the number of political prisoners is estimated at between 710 and 740 with an additional about 100 people who are missing. Detention centers still exist in Morocco. [passage omitted] [end recording]

King Hassan, Dignitaries Receive Jordanian Envoy

LD0406221892 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received at the royal office Mr Khalid al-Karki, envoy of His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, and head of the Jordanian royal office.

This audience was attended by Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr Abdellatif Filali, and His Majesty's adviser Mr Ahmed Reda Guedira. The audience was also joined by Mr Anwar al-Khatib, former governor of Jerusalem, engineers R'id Najm, member of the council for the restoration of the al-Aqsa Mosque, Dr Ahmad Hulayl, secretary general of the Jordanian Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs, Mr 'Adnan Bahjat al-Talahuni, Jordanian ambassador to Morocco, and Mr Faysal al-Fa'iz, director of the Jordanian Royal Office Chairmanship.

Sudan

'Irrefutable' Proof of Saudi Aid To Rebels Cited

AB0506082092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jun (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government possesses irrefutable proofs and documents of Saudi Arabia's arms shipments to the rebellion movement, a responsible official source told SUNA Thursday [4 June]. The source, commenting on a lengthy statement by the Saudi Government over Saudi media recently, stressed that the mere denial by the Saudi Government of its military assistance to the rebellion movement would not clear it from "this criminal act."

"The Sudan knew the names and nationalities of the ships of destruction sent by the Saudi Government to date on which it closed Yanbu Port for loading the arms and even the names of the captains of those ships," the source said.

The source pointed out that the Saudi Government had loaded the weapons destined for the rebellion movement aboard two ships with one of them carries the name of Mylord, adding that the ships arrived at Mombasa Port in mid-May 1992 and they are docked now at docks no 15 and 16 under strict guard by the Kenyan security forces and elements of John Garang's group who are staying at a guest house owned by [words indistinct] waiting for a permission from the Kenyan Government to unload the shipment.

The Saudi Government sent the arm shipments under policies no. 384498 and 384500 for the benefit of the rebellion movement via [name indistinct] who are staying in Kitale town, the source revealed, identifying the shipping agent as a Saudi businessman who has a previous experience in weapon deliveries to the areas of wars in Africa.

The Sudanese Government also have proofs on the types of weapons and ammunitions supplied earlier by the Kingdom to the rebellion movement, the source added, saying that the government possesses further evidence in this connection.

The official source expressed thanks to the Kenyan Government for its brave stance for refusing to permit the unloading of the destructive shipments at its ports.

The source explained that the Sudanese Government was obliged to unveil the plotting of the Saudi Government when the kingdom went to an extent of killing Sudanese people by supplying the rebellion movement by weapons. He went on to say that Saudi Arabia is targetting the Sudan because of its ("rejection of following) the will of others and because the Sudan has attained its freedom of decision-making.

The source, pointing to the Saudi arrogance in connection with its previous economic assistance to Sudan, that the ("Saudi) Government, contrary to what it claimed, had been adopting a hard-line position as ("regards) [words indistinct]

Tunisia

Ambassador in Belgrade Summoned for Consultations

LD0306230592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Regarding what is happening in Bosnia-Hercegovina, an authorized source at the Foreign Ministry made the following statement:

Stemming from its loyalty to the principles of freedom and justice and its lasting commitment to international legitimacy, Tunisia, which has been following the painful events in Bosnia-Hercegovina, summoned its ambassador in Belgrade last Saturday for consultations as an expression of its concern over the continuing hostile acts against civilian residents in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The same source recalls that since the start of these events, Tunisia has made constant appeals, especially through President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, to the international community to take the necessary measures and put an end to the vicious and continuous hostilities against the young Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, whose independence had been recognized by Tunisia already.

President Ben Ali launched a call to the international community to protect the cultural and civilized heritage of Bosnia-Hercegovina, especially in Sarajevo and Mostar.

Defense Minister, Delegation On Visit to U.S.

LD0506083692 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, the minister of national defense, began a working visit yesterday to Washington, as head of the Tunisian military delegation to the regular meeting at the joint Tunisian-American military committee.

The minister of national defense had talks with a number of members from the Senate and the House of Representatives. He also met Richard Clarke, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs. The talks dealt with aspects of Tunisian-American cooperation, bilateral relations and means of strengthening them, as well as the most important current issues and the situation prevailing in the region.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Appeals to Afghan Mojahedin To End Fighting

LD0506032692 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The Servant of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud sent once again yesterday, Thursday [3 June] a special appeal to the leader of the Afghan mojahedin. It reads, inter alia:

To the brother leaders of the Afghan mojahedin in Kabul: We have followed with much regret and sorrow what is taking place today in the scene of the Afghan jehad, i.e. bloody armed clashes because of marginal difference of opinion which, in our eyes, are not beneficial for the noble and higher aims for whose cause you fought—the cause of God—for many years until God granted you victory and allowed you, thanks be to God, to your homeland victorious and triumphant, carrying the banner: There is no god but Allah; Muhammad is his true messenger.

The entire Muslim world has congratulated you on your victory and success in your just cause in which sincere men stood by you giving you their support, aid and backing.

Your brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are urging you, in the name of hundreds of thousands of Muslims, who are today gathering at God's holy mosque in order to perform the fifth ordinance of Islam, to spare the blood of your brothers the sons of the struggling Muslim people. They also urge you to use your wise judgement in every matter and every decision you might make in order to bring about security and stability and to bolster further your own capabilities and consolidate your institutions so as the struggling Afghan people might reap the fruits of its long jehad. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Discusses Hajj Arrangements

LD0406151492 Riyadh SPA in English 1232 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Mecca, June 4, SPA—Interior Minister Prince Na'if Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who is also chairman of the supreme Hajj committee, held a news conference here on Wednesday after inspecting security arrangements at Mecca, al-Mina and other holy places.

Speaking to reporters, Prince Na'if praised the efforts made by the Hajj concerned authorities which aimed at ensuring the security and comfort of pilgrims.

Asked about the arrangements taken by the Saudi Government to accomodate the increasing numbers of pilgrims in the coming years, Prince Na'if said the decision to limit the numbers of pilgrims in the past years had been taken by the organisation of Islamic conference due to the current expansion projects being carried out at the two holy mosques but after the completion of the projects the restriction on number shall be lifted.

Prince Na'if said the Saudi security forces were on full alert to foil any attempt to sabotage the Hajj operation. Prince Na'if was replying to a question on the measures to be taken by the security authorities against anyone who attempts to sabotage Hajj operation.

Prince Na'if hoped that all pilgrims shall refrain from any act that would violate the security of Hajj and reaffirmed that security forces were ready to deal with any attempt to thwart the security of Hajj.

He also urged the pilgrims to abide by Hajj regulations and said "Hajj security is the responsibility of one and all".

Asked whether the security forces have discovered any plan or attempt to send agents to undermine the security of the Kingdom, Prince Na'if said the security authorities had not found any foreign plan to tamper with the security of the Kingdom since last year and up till now.

Prince Na'if said "Saudi Arabia welcomes all pilgrims irrespective of the attitude of their governments".

Prince Na'if said since last year and until now, the security authorities had not discovered any plan, either by Iraq or others, to create chaos and confusion during the pilgrimage. "If any group or individual thinks of tampering with the Hajj security we would face such act with full firmness", Prince Na'if added.

Asked to comment on the statement of the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he called for a peaceful Hajj, Prince Na'if welcomed the statement and said Iranian pilgrims did not create any security problem last year and this year also. "We hope this attitude and conduct will continue" Prince Na'if said.

Asked whether studies had been conducted in order to put an end to the overstaying problem, Prince Na'if said the issue was under study by the Interior Ministry and urged those who come on Umra [minor pilgrimage] visas to return to their countries because they had come for a particular purpose.

He urged the Saudi citizens to cooperate with the security authorities in this connection by not employing overstayers.

Asked also whether studies had been made to end the phenomenon of pilgrims living on walkways and streets, Prince Na'if said the issue was under study by the concerned government authorities and Hajj research center for reaching best solutions to this phenomenon.

Prince Na'if noted the huge costs paid by the Saudi Government for Hajj security efforts.

He praised the performance of the security forces during the past years.

Correction to King Fahd Finances Albanian Pilgrims
LD0206195992

The following correction applies to the item headlined "Fahd To Sponsor 300,000 Albanian Pilgrims" published in the 4 June Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 11:

Headline, make read: King Fahd To Finance Pilgrimage of 300 Albanians (correcting figure)

Graf one, first sentence make read: ...personal expense from 150 to 300 pilgrims.... (correcting figures)

Iraq Will Not Surrender 'Single Inch' of Land

JN0406111992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Untitled talk carried within "The Armed Forces" program]

[Text] It is inconceivable for Iraq to relinquish a single inch of its dear soil. This land has been watered by the blood of martyrs throughout history in more than one historic epic waged by the glorious Iraqis to defend their rights and dignity.

As enemy schemes to hurt Iraq's sovereignty by inflaming regional problems and expansionist border disputes continue, the Iraqis have no choice but to pursue a policy of steadfastness and sacrifice to retaliate against any base attempt, whether undertaken with or without legitimate cover. The Security Council has refrained from speaking the truth. It has continued to invent and send committees, brandishing the club of blockade, to portray Iraq as a negative party that fails to implement the Council's notorious resolutions. But Iraq has expressed its readiness on many occasions to implement these resolutions if the Council deals with it fairly and practices a single rather than a double standard.

My mujahid comrades: Iraq strongly retaliated against Iran's expansionist attempts during an eight-year war. Once it emerged victorious, the forces of evil—represented by the United States and its dwarf agents—rushed to strangle this Arab giant. But they were frustrated and disappointed. Enemy attempts can only die in their cradles. Iraq will remain alive, and its sovereignty over all of its soil will remain forever as long as it has right on its side. The will of the people and the determination of the victorious leader, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, can foil all colonialist designs. The hour of salvation, no doubt, is coming.

Yugoslav Charge Meets With Defense Minister

U.S. 'Evil Intentions' Seen

JN0406200492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1937 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—The Yugoslav charge d'affaires in Baghdad has accused the United States of conspiring against his country to weaken and fragment it in the service of its evil intentions.

Speaking during his meeting here today with 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, Vlado Kohut [name as received] said that the U.S. scheme has caused much bloodshed in Yugoslavia.

He explained that Washington also is seeking to end Yugoslavia's influential role in the Nonaligned Movement, which, in turn, has been subjected to an organized onslaught since it was established, to keep its members weak and without influence on the international scene.

The RCC member and defense minister said that what Yugoslavia is suffering from today is the same scheme carried out by Washington against Iraq.

He asserted that the United States and its allies targeted Iraq's national unity and the foundations of its economy and progress. He also emphasized that what happened to Iraq, which is now happening to Yugoslavia and other struggling nations, is the destiny of all nations that seek to lead a dignified life, unlike those nations that have plenty of dollars and have employed their regimes as agent of foreigners, thus losing their dignity, national will, and independence.

Yugoslav Assets in Iraq 'Protected'

LD0406215192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1950 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (TANJUG)—Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid today expressed full understanding for the stands of the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] with regard to the sanctions imposed against it by the United Nations.

During a meeting with Vlado Kohut, the charge d'affaires of the Yugoslav Embassy in Baghdad, al-Majid stressed that this is a battle of the people in the FRY for their dignity, independence, and freedom, which will require a great deal of patience and sacrifice.

Iraq has always seen Yugoslavia as a friend and is the only country at the present moment that can understand the scope of sanctions imposed by the world organization, the Iraqi defense minister pointed out. Al-Majid added that the Yugoslav assets on Iraq's building sites are protected and they will remain so until international conditions became favorable for the works to continue.

British Paper's Allegations Termed 'Trash'

JN0306170392 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 1 Jun 92 p 1

[Monitoring service report: "Read This Trash"]

[Text] The British newspaper THE OBSERVER yesterday accused Iraq of financing the production of the missiles Serbia is firing on Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a report highlighted and carried by the BBC radio, the paper said that "Iraqi planes" are now flying over "the battlefields" of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Western media recently have been noticeably engaged in propagating fabrications, as well as false and naive allegations likening Serbia to Iraq in the wake of the Kuwait events. This trash, observers have noted, came in the aftermath of the passage of "a Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Serbia."

Thus, the Western media are recreating the frenzied atmosphere which prevailed before and during the aggression against Iraq. This serves to indicate that Serbia is targeted by a military aggression.

BBC Arabic World Service Broadcasts Jammed

LD0406143892 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1237 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Iraq is making new attempts to jam BBC World Service Arabic radio broadcasts to the Middle East, it was disclosed today. It is being aimed principally at morning broadcasts, a BBC statement said. Not all frequencies were affected and listeners were asked to try alternative wavelengths.

"Saddam Husayn appears once again to be trying to stifle the flow of free information to his people," said BBC World Service Managing Director John Tusa. "His previous attempts failed and I am confident the news from the BBC will continue to get through."

Iraq has tried to disrupt BBC broadcasts on and off since the 1980-88 war with Iran. Heavy jamming began during the Gulf war but was abandoned when BBC engineers switched to alternative wavelengths.

Oil Minister Criticizes EC Oil Tax Plan

JN0406085192 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 1 Jun 92 p 4

[Interview with Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti by Aghadir Mahdi; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mahdi] How do you view the tax that will be imposed on every oil barrel under the pretext of protecting the environment?

[Al-Hiti] The proposed EC tax on hydrocarbon energy sources under the cover of protecting the environment is nothing but an excuse to impose additional taxes on imported crude oil, especially from developing countries. The aim is to minimize dependence on oil and to increase the revenues of the rich countries. These countries are disregarding the fact that nuclear energy is the main source of pollution.

[Mahdi] What about the talks on the exportation of Iraqi oil?

[Al-Hiti] Insofar as Iraq is concerned, we have complied with the UN Security Council resolutions without harming our sovereignty and whenever those resolutions were logical and practical. However, the United States and the other countries controlling the Security Council have always worked to foil any agreement that allows the export of Iraqi oil to the world market. [passage omitted]

Minister Meets With Austrian Counterpart

JN0406053792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1956 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Vienna, 3 Jun (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun met with his Austrian counterpart Helmut Tork [name as received] in Vienna today.

Hamdun explained to the Austrian official the (?situation) of the Iraqi people under the unjust blockade, as well as Iraq's cooperation with UN commissions concerning UN resolutions.

Hamdun called on Austria, in its capacity as a neutral state and a Security Council member, to work actively to end the inhumane suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the Council's tyranny.

For his part, the Austrian official stressed his country's concern about the difficult situation the Iraqi people are undergoing as a result of the unjust blockade, and he promised to make efforts in this respect.

The two sides are scheduled to hold a second meeting on Friday.

Red Cross Official Meets With Defense Minister

JN0406165292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, met today with Arthur Basic [name as received], head of the International Red Cross mission in Iraq.

The two officials discussed means of cooperation between the Defense Ministry and the international mission in Iraq to guarantee that the mission will accomplish its humanitarian objectives.

Mr. Basic praised the Iraqi Government's stands and the facilities given to the mission for accomplishing its humanitarian objectives regarding POW's and the search for missing persons in order to end the suffering of their relatives and families.

Mr. Basic asserted further that he and the members of the mission operating in Iraq have not encountered any difficulties during their work, owing to the cooperation of the Iraqi authorities and Iraq's full compliance with Security Council Resolution 598 for 1987 and all its clauses and paragraphs.

Land Transport Company Views Expansion

JN0406113092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company has decided to study ways to promote its activity and to expand its fleet of trucks.

After three days of meetings, which concluded today, the company's Board of Directors made a number of decisions to achieve the objectives of the company and serve the joint interests of the two fraternal countries of Iraq and Jordan.

The Board discussed a number of paragraphs and items on its agenda and approved the production and financial report for the first quarter of the current year. It was stressed that

efforts should be undertaken to make the company a successful model of joint Arab action in the economic field.

Popular Forces Leader Speaks on War Anniversary

JN0406154992 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 4, INA—Secretary-General of the Arab Popular Forces Conference Sa'd Qasim Hammudi demanded the international community to punish and isolate the Zionist entity because of its usurping of Palestine and continuation of its occupation of south Lebanon, Syrian Golan Heights and continued aggression on the Arab nation. He has also called on the United Nations and the Security Council to provide protection for the Palestinian Arab people who is every day exposed to the ugliest violations of human rights.

The Arab Popular Forces Conference secretary-general said in a statement to INA on the 25th anniversary of June 5 war of 1967 that the Zionist enemy challenged, and still doing, with all impudence all resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the General assembly without being subject to questioning or blockade or the use by the Security Council of articles of the 7th obligatory chapter of the United Nations Charter, embodying by that hypocrite behaviour its double-standard stance and bias and incapability particularly following the American Administration domination over its destinies and resolutions.

He added that if the 5th of June 1967 setback had disclosed the deep failure in the Arab community and system, it at the same time confirmed the need of the Arab nation to serious work, scientific building and armed struggle on the road of the decisive confrontation with the Zionist American imperialist strategic alliance whatever that confrontation had cost of property and efforts and sacrifices.

The secretary-general of the popular Arab forces has further said that President Saddam Husayn's initiative on August 12, 1990 on the comprehensive solution of all problems of the region has submitted the Palestinian cause and the Arab Zionist conflict strongly and clearly and justly on the world level. It has exposed the approach of using two yardsticks which the international community has been dealing with in regard to the Arab destiny in comparision with other problems.

He has further said the current regional and international variations are not a final state and there should not be a concession of Washington's single-handed dealing and individual hegemony on fates of the world peoples.

He has also affirmed the absolute confidence in inevitability of Arabism victory over its enemies and the return of the people of Palestine to its occupied homeland with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, its legitimate and sole representative and its capital the holy al-Quds.

Kurdish Council Holds Meeting, Elects Speaker

JN0406164792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Dear listeners, the Kurdistan National Council held its first meeting in Irbil at 1030 on Thursday, 4 June under the slogan: "The Kurdistan National Council Holds Its First Meeting in an Atmosphere of Freedom and Democracy." The meeting was held in the presence of brothers Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. A large number of guests, as well as foreign, Arab, and Kurdish journalists also attended.

At the outset of the meeting, Hasan Kanabi, the oldest council member, was elected to chair the meeting. The conferees observed a minute silence for the souls of the martyrs. Mulla Jadid then recited Koranic verses.

Hasan Kanabi delivered a speech in which he welcomed the audience. He said: We should be happy because we are meeting today without any differences within a united parliament for the sake of discussing our people's crises and problems. The national council is dutybound to find the means to tackle issues in the hope of safeguarding this achievement.

Following this speech, the members took the oath which stipulates the safeguarding of the people and the land of Kurdistan. Jawhar Namiq Salim was elected as speaker of the Kurdistan National Council, and Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim was elected his deputy.

Kurdistan National Council Speaker Jawhar Namiq Salim welcomed the audience. He delivered a speech in which he stressed the need to close ranks. He said that the Kurdistan National Council seeks to get all parties closer together. He added that this achievement is the result of the sacrifices of thousands of Kurdish martyrs. He also spoke about the problems facing the Kurdish people, including the imposed economic blockade and the means to find a solution to this problem.

Today's celebration of the inauguration of the Kurdistan National Council provided an atmosphere of elation and happiness for the Kurdish masses everywhere.

Saddam Orders Increase in Plant Oil Prices

JN0206145392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered that the prices for oil products be increased as follows:

Name of Product	Old Price/Per Tonne	New Price/Per Tonne
Soybean Oil	5,000 dinars	7,000 dinars
Sunflower	3,500 dinars	5,500 dinars
Raw Cotton Flower		
Excellent Grade	6,000 dinars	9,000 dinars
First Grade	5,500 dinars	8,500 dinars
Second Grade	5,000 dinars	7,500 dinars
Cotton Seeds	2,000 dinars	3,000 dinars

Leader President Saddam Husayn earlier had ordered an increase in the prices at which wheat, barley, and rice are bought from peasants and farmers for this season.

MIO Embarks on Oil Refinery Project in Babil

JN0306194092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—The Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] has, for the first time, embarked on the implementation of a huge strategic project in the field of oil refining and the manufacture of oil products.

Dr. 'Ala' Mahmud Husayn, director general of the State Enterprise for Industrial Projects, an MIO affiliate, said that the technical and engineering cadres of the State Enterprise have embarked on the implementation of the Central Oil Refinery project in the Babil Governorate, 160 km south of Baghdad, utilizing purely Iraqi expertise.

Dr. Husayn added that the first phase of the project, which hopefully will be completed during the first half of 1993, provides for the design and construction of 34 buildings of various sizes, including workshops, stores, and buildings for secondary power stations, not to mention the pavement of roads and the production of piping supports.

The director general of the State Enterprise for Industrial Projects pointed out that Iraqi cadres, for the first time, will be engaged in the design, production, and installation of control stations, pumping stations, piping networks, a number of chimneys, vapor and pressurized air production systems, and caustic soda production systems. This is in addition to water distribution systems, the control chamber, and the sewage water treatment system, which will treat heavy oil water. Iraqi cadres will also be responsible for designing and installing fuel pumping stations, which will pump liquid as well as gas fuel to steam boilers. Furthermore, he noted, they will prepare the designs for the refinery project and will build the communications network. Similarly, they also will undertake the project's grounding work, he added.

Dr. 'Ala' Mahmud Husayn said that the project's oil refining and oil production capacity, which will involve the production of various kinds of fuel, will be close to that of the Bayji refinery. The refining capacity of this facility is put at 290,000 barrels of fuel, 250,000 tonnes of lubricants, and 300,000 tonnes of tar per year.

Agriculture Minister Interviewed on Harvests

JN0506111992 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[By Qasim Mahdi]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh, minister of agriculture and irrigation, has reported that there are about 3,000 harvesters participating in the ongoing harvest campaign in all of the country's governorates.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH, he added: Ninety manual harvesters also have been distributed throughout the governorates to secure the success of the harvest campaign by covering the largest area of agricultural land. President leader Saddam Husayn has been the great driving force behind this campaign. He has urged the peasants and farmers to utilize this campaign to break the economic blockade imposed on our country. He also has increased the prices of wheat and barley, which are important strategic crops.

Al-Sabbagh said that one of the important and early measures taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to minimize losses was to have the various branches of the ministry in the governorates conduct a general inventory of all harvesters available in each governorate and to specify the operational ones. After being checked to ensure that it will provide the best service, the reserve agricultural equipment available in the warehouses of the Agricultural Equipment Company was also distributed to the ministry's branches in the governorates. This equipment was given to the owners of harvesters.

The different harvest dates in each governorate will be utilized to move the harvesters around from one governorate to another according to a timetable taking into consideration each governorate's needs. The ministry will pay the transportation fees of these harvesters as an incentive to their owners.

Road Between al-Anbar, Karbala' Under Construction

JN0306171892 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 31 May 92 p 2

[Text] The Military Industrialization Organization's al-Faw Public Establishment is building a 69-km strategic road linking the western and southern parts of Iraq at a cost of 28 million dinars.

Project manager Engineer 'Abdallah 'Uwayz has stated that the earthworks, which are being built by the al-Faw Public Establishment's engineering teams, are expected to be completed in 20 months.

He said that the new road is being constructed in accordance with international standards similar to those applicable to highways. The road will be 12.5 meters wide—8 meters to accommodate vehicular transport and the rest for paved hard shoulders. The project also involves building 66 pipe culverts and three box culverts, as well as two bridges—a 175-meter long bridge over al-Rawdah wadi and a 123-meter bridge over al-Tha'labiyah wadi.

The road will link the al-Anbar and Karbala' Governorates. It will pass through 'Ayn Tamr and intersect with the pilgrimage road. The road will not pass over any water obstacle.

Further on Situation in Lebanon; Attacks Continue

Air Force Strikes 'Terrorist Target' 4 Jun

TA0406121692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Israel Air Force planes raided a terrorist target in south Lebanon this afternoon. All the planes returned safely to base. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the target was a command post of Ahmad Jibril's terror organization. Foreign correspondents report that the raid took place in al-Rashidiyah, south of Tyre, and was carried out by three Cobra helicopters.

Ahmad Jibril Headquarters Targeted

TA0506064392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Israel Air Force [IAF] planes this morning attacked a terrorist target in 'Ayn al-Hulwah. The target served as a headquarters for Ahmad Jibril's organization. All the IAF planes returned safely to base.

Our army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum notes that Jibril's organization had assumed responsibility for the ambush on the Army convoy on the Arnun Heights.

Israel Navy Boats Come Under Fire

TA0506101492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] command says Israeli Navy boats were fired on this morning from the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp near Tyre. None of the ships were hit.

UNIFIL observers told Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the north that since yesterday's attack on the al-Rashidiyah command of Ahmad Jibril, hundreds of armed Palestinians have been deployed on the coast to defend against an Israeli attack from the sea.

Egypt's Mubarak Warns Shamir of War

TA0506053392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jun 92 p A1

[Report by Gay Bekhor, Eytan Rabin, and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] According to political sources in Cairo, who were quoting an urgent message Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent to Prime Minister Shamir yesterday, Mubarak warned Shamir that a new war might break out in the region if Israel continues the raids in south Lebanon.

In his message, Mubarak goes on to note that the continued bombing of south Lebanon might make Syria and Lebanon boycott the regional peace process and, what is worse, might escalate the tension and violence to the verge of a new Israeli-Syrian war.

Mubarak calls on Shamir to adopt "a language of wisdom and logic" in his attitude toward various elements in the Middle East. He adds that Egypt has been investing much effort to ensure the successful continuation of the peace process, but its efforts might go down the drain because of Israel's operations in Lebanon.

Mubarak made a 24-hour visit to Damascus on Wednesday, during which the tension in Lebanon and the continuation of the peace process after the elections in Israel were discussed. The message may have been worded in coordination with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

It has been learned from the Prime Minister's Office that no message has yet been received from the Egyptian president. [passage omitted]

Concern Over Morale in Security Zone

TA0506050992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpts] SLA [South Lebanese Army] Headquarters is worried about a recent increase in expressions of low morale among the residents of the security zone, due to the tension in the area over the past several months. General Lahd and his officers believe that a crushing blow to Hizballah would give the locals a boost. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the north:

[passage omitted] Ever since the fall of the SLA post on the border of the security zone, the Shiite population under Gen. Lahd has felt increasingly distressed. The suspicion that the four soldiers captured by Hizballah engaged in treason still hangs in the air. Many Shiite families are split, with one son serving in the SLA while his brother is with Hizballah.

Behind all this looms the threatening peace process. Common belief among the residents of the south has it that Israel, through U.S. mediation, in fact sold out the security zone to the Syrians in return for compromises on the Golan Heights.

Gen. Lahd, attentive to his subordinates, keeps pressuring the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]: Show your might. This is the only language spoken and respected by everyone in Lebanon, he says. This is what he told Uri Lubrani and Brigadier General Yitzhaq Mordekhay yesterday, when they visited his headquarters.

In the meantime, Gen. Lahd uses his radio station, the Voice of the South, to try to pacify his population: Israel is increasing its civilian aid to you.

Everyone in the IDF agrees that the security zone is a superb Israeli invention which should be carefully guarded. Sources in the Northern Command said that they have noticed no drop in the morale of either the residents of the south or the SLA soldiers.

Situation in South Lebanon Examined

TA0306174192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Jun 92 p B2

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Matching the Reaction to the Danger"]

[Text] The problem confronting the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the wake of the past two weeks' developments in south Lebanon lies in the need to decide on a military reaction capable of warding off the two potential dangers. The broader the scope of its military reaction to Hizballah, the greater the danger of uncontrolled and undesirable deterioration that could evolve into a war with Syria.

The second peril is the impact of successful military Hizballah activities on the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the Shiite component of the security zone. At present the senior IDF command, and particularly the chief of staff, are forced to walk a very narrow tightrope. The problem is that even successful tightrope walking does not guarantee that the resolution of the current crisis will meet the hopes of the General Staff.

The chief actors in the ongoing drama in south Lebanon—Israel and Syria—are not interested in military deterioration and do not wish to lose control over this carefully monitored game. Yet the support actors—Hizballah and the SLA—do have a vested interest in expanding the scope of military activities and in seeing their two patrons get entangled in combat with each other. In the present situation in south Lebanon, the chief of staff must take care not to play into the hands of the support actors.

The obvious and explicit objective of the Air Force raids is to damage the Hizballah infrastructure, equipment, and troops, on the assumption that they will reduce the scope of Hizballah's operational activities. This is a longstanding IDF policy in south Lebanon, based on the absence of a central power in Beirut capable of forcing its authority on the various powers in south Lebanon. The policy is based on the belief that while settling for direct damage to the organization itself may be less efficient, it is essential in the unique situation prevailing in Lebanon.

It seems that the intensive military activity carried out by the IDF over the past two weeks reflects a certain policy change. Although the massive Air Force bombing is directed at targets inside Hizballah bases, their message is aimed at the Syrian sponsor. This is the main reason why the Air Force planes have been operating in such proximity to the Syrian-Lebanese border and in the heart of an area controlled and patrolled by the Syrian Army.

The operations are supposed to bring it home to Hafiz al-Asad that Israel has decided to regard him as a person capable of ending the military activities of Hizballah. If the Syrian president has so far misread the south Lebanese map, the Air Force bombings were designed to help him understand Israel's position.

Al-Asad is known as one of the masters of tightrope walking. He has proven it more than once in the past, scoring handsome political and economic profits, mainly in the Lebanese arena. This time, however, it is Israel that knowingly assumed a policy of walking the tightrope. It is taking the initiative, while the Syrians remain passive at this stage.

The policy stands out even more in view of the decision to bomb near the Syrian border even though Hizballah's activity drastically diminished once the air raids started, and especially after the first wave of attacks on Lebanese al-Biqa'.

The profit in the policy of walking the tightrope will only be realized if it becomes apparent that the Syrians will indeed use their influence on the Hizballah, making it reduce its military activities. At the same time, it entails a danger that deserves attention: A single shoulder missile hitting and downing an Israel Air Force [IAF] plane or an accidental strike on a group of Syrian soldiers might be enough to cause an escalation no one wants.

The Syrians are currently acting with restraint and not responding to the IAF attacks in the heart of the area under their control in al-Biqa'. If Syrian soldiers are hurt, however, there will be no more restraint; if that happens, al-Asad will not be able to hold his fire, Israel believes. What could perhaps start as a local Syrian reaction might naturally expand to an all-out military campaign. The existence of such a threat requires that the chief of staff be extra careful when approving attacks on targets in such proximity to the Syria border. On the other hand, Israel is under the same pressure: obviously, if an IAF plane is downed in al-Biqa', Israel's military activity in the region will expand. It is not clear what the Syrian reaction would be or whether developments and the military activity could remain controlled.

To a large extent, the IDF is trapped in south Lebanon. Its policy in the region is the direct cause of the Hizballah military activity. The more that lasts and the tighter Israel's control of the security zone becomes, the more motivated the Shiite organization members become. A change in the policy based on the security zone could perhaps put an end to the Hizballah terrorism, but, in the absence of better options, there is no choice but to adhere to it for the time being.

Still, the events of the past two weeks in south Lebanon indicate that maintaining a policy that depends exclusively on the security zone could prove a mistake. It is still hard to assess the influence of the Hizballah's military successes on the Shiite population of the security zone under the IDF rule. Official Israeli sources have denied that there is an erosion in the determination of Shiite soldiers of the SLA, and they made it clear that the capture of SLA soldiers has not affected that determination. At the same time, they admit that continued

Hizballah successes might, in time, change the sentiment of the security zone residents and the Shiite soldiers of the SLA.

The events in south Lebanon once more stress that Israel should be the one interested in placing the issue of the future of south Lebanon on the agenda of its political contacts with the Syrians and the Lebanese. A policy of walking the tightrope is only good for a limited period of time. Eventually, a comprehensive political solution is needed, by which Israel will recognize Syria's and Lebanon's essential interests in south Lebanon; the sovereignty of the central Lebanese regime over south Lebanon will be renewed; and the activities of militias and military organizations—including the Hizballah—in south Lebanon will be restricted. Israel must take steps to dismantle this powder keg called south Lebanon; it is the one standing to profit the most.

Gaza Closure Decision Coming in 'Next Few Days'

TA0406164992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the government will decide in the next few days whether to extend the closure of the Gaza Strip. The prime minister was speaking before the Israeli Council for Foreign Relations in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was there:

The first question that was posed to the prime minister after he had concluded his lecture pertained to the closure of the Gaza Strip and the reports that Ministers Levi and Arens were opposed to prolonging it for an extended period. Differences of opinion are only natural, the prime minister replied, but the government will be the one to decide and the decision will be made in the next few days. Earlier, in his prepared written speech, the prime minister commented among other issues on the bill for direct election of the prime minister. There is no certainty, Shamir said, that this law will guarantee the political security that most of the Israeli public desires. Afterward, Shamir criticized the media, asserting that it tends to highlight the establishment's purported failures, focuses on sensationalism, and dwells on anything that smacks of gossip and personal corruption. Summing up his remarks, Shamir stressed that no negotiations had been held with the PLO and promised that that organization would have no foothold in Eretz Yisra'el. Anyone who thinks that what is happening today is negotiations with the PLO is simply wrong and also misleading others, the prime minister explained.

New Settlement Beyond Green Line To Go Up Soon

TA0506052892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jun 92 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpt] A settlement group slated to populate Ginat has decided to move to the site before the elections, even without permission from the government. The group belongs to Amana, Gush Emunim's settlement movement, and its members have been undergoing pioneer training at Moshav Sede Ya'aqov for the past eight months.

A decision in principle on the establishment of Ginat was made by the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs headed by Yuval Ne'eman and was approved by the government in 1983. During the past year, two dates were set for the move to the site, in coordination with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, but the move was put off due to U.S. pressure, and no new date has been set yet.

The prospective settlers say they have despaired of Shamir's promises to set a date for the move any time soon. Consequently, they said 17 families will move to the site within the next few days.

The site slated for Ginat used to be a Nahal Brigade settlement, but is manned today by soldiers from different Army corps. It is located west of the Megiddo-Janin road beyond the Green Line and consists of over 1,000 dunams of land.

Shilo Gal, head of the Gush 'Etzyon Regional Council, stated in an interview with the local paper GUSH-PANQA that a new settlement is planned between Efrat and Ma'ale 'Amos. Gal also noted that the Nahal Brigade settlement of Psagot will soon be civilianized and that a settlement will be established at Haforit.

During a tour of the Qatif bloc yesterday, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon declared that "self-rule should be granted to densely populated Arab areas, while all other territories should be annexed to the State of Israel." [passage omitted]

Sharon Approves More Housing for Kfar Darom

TA0406143692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has approved the building of an additional 40 houses in Kfar Darom. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that today during a tour of the Qatif bloc Minister Sharon conferred with the head of the Hof 'Aza regional council and with inhabitants of various settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Minister Sharon was accompanied by THE NEW YORK TIMES columnist William Safire, who sought to learn about settlement in the area and about relations with the Egyptians on the other side of the border.

Khan Yunus Youth Killed After Attacking Soldiers

TA0406195892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] A young resident of the Khan Yunus refugee camp was killed this evening by IDF [Israel Defense Forces]

gunfire when he rushed to attack troops while brandishing an axe. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the killed youth was Sa'id Khalil Maqdud. It was reported that an IDF contingent encountered five masked men blocking traffic in a Khan Yunus street.

Local residents said that one of the youths was scrawling PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] slogans on the walls. When the IDF troops, who were on an initiated operation, arrived on the scene, the man attacked the soldiers with an axe. The troops felt they were in a life-threatening situation and shot and wounded the assailant. Later, it transpired that he had died of his wounds. The other three masked men managed to escape.

Our correspondent reports that a Unified National Leadership of the Uprising leaflet was distributed today in the territories to mark the Six-Day War and the Lebanon war.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 4 June reports that "after intensive intelligence efforts, the Shin Bet has uncovered a terrorist cell that operated in the villages of Qabatiyah and Silat al-Harithiyah in the Janin area. The terrorists were discovered following an IDF operation near the village of 'Araqah approximately two weeks ago. One of the squad members was injured and another captured. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that one of the squad members is suspected of involvement in the murder of Israeli Druze Jamil Hassun and Mufid Kan'an. In their interrogation the terrorists admitted that they had intended to attack soldiers at hitchhiking stations, to kidnap them, and to take their weapons. They had even begun preparations to carry out their plans."

Reportage on Knesset Election Lists, Campaigns

Elections Committee Approves 25 Lists

TA0406120592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Excerpts] Twenty-five lists, of which 10 are new and 15 are veteran lists, will take part in the elections to the 13th Knesset. This was decided yesterday by the Central Elections Committee in its final session on endorsing the lists and their names.

The committee disqualified five lists from running in the elections. Two lists—Kakh and Kahana Hay—were disqualified for substantive reasons, and three were disqualified for technical reasons. Tora La'am was disqualified because its list of supporters did not meet the requirements, and the list has withdrawn its application. Medinat Hayehudim, established to prevent the extradition of the Manning couple to the United States, was disqualified. Justice Avraham Halima, the committee chairman, was not convinced by the steps Robert Manning took to give up his U.S. citizenship, as required by law.

The Malkhut Yisra'el list, headed by Avraham Badanjo, was disqualified due to an insufficient number of signatures required to get the list approved. [passage omitted]

National Religious Party [NRP] representatives asked that the name "Rabin-led Labor" be disqualified. Knesset Member Hayim Ramon, who responded to the NRP claims, said that the request is petty and that other lists bearing a similar slogan were not disqualified, such as "Badash-led Piqanti."

Following are the official names that have been approved:
EMET—Rabin-led Labor
BET—NRP; National Religious Front; Hamizrahi; and Hapo'el Hamizrahi
GIMMEL—United Torah Jewry: Agudat Yisra'el, Degel Hatora, Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz
DALET—The National Movement for Democracy and Aliyah
DAF—Moshe Badash-led Piqanti
WAW—Democratic Front for Peace and Equality; Israel Communist Party; and Jewish-Arab public circles
ZAYIN-NUN—Tzipor
TET—Moledet
YAD—Hatiqva: Social Struggle Movement headed by Charlie Biton
YOD-ZAYIN—Hatora Veha'aretz headed by Rabbi Moshe Levinger
YAM—Law of Nature Party
KAF-YOD—TALI, The Movement for Israel's Revival
MAHAL—Likud
MERTZ—Meretz: Democratic Israel—Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy
NUN—On Wheels
NUN-DALET—The Movement of Mortgage Victims, Homeless, and Newly Demobilized Soldiers
NUN-KAF—Women's Party
'AYIN—Arab Democratic Party
PE—Progressive List for Peace
ZADE—Tzomet: The Movement for Zionist Revival and Nonpartisans
QOF—Pensioners, New Immigrants, and Elderly
QOF-LAMED—Ge'ulat Yisra'el headed by Rabbi Eli'ezer Mizrahi
QOF-NUN—The New Liberal Party headed by Yitzhaq Moda'i
SHAS—The Torah Observing Sephardim Association
TAW—Tehiya

Poll Shows Standoff Between Major Blocs

TA0506102192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat]

[Text] Three polls commissioned by YEDI'OT AHARONOT uniformly point to a standoff between the two major blocs (Likud and its partners; Labor, Meretz, and the Arab parties).

The polls, conducted during the first three days of this week, give each bloc some 60 Knesset seats.

Following is the picture emerging from the polls:
—Labor continues to lead with an edge of eight to 10 Knesset seats over the Likud, but the edge appears to be getting smaller.
—If proven true on election day, these findings and assessments seem to point to the establishment of a national unity government. Assuming that Labor maintains its edge, however, such a government would be led by Yitzhaq Rabin and would not involve a rotating premiership.
—According to the three polls, none of the new parties will attain the minimum quota required to gain a Knesset seat.
—As could have been expected, terror events and the riots in Bat Yam slightly contributed to strengthening the Likud.
—Dahaf and Teleseqer polled immigrants separately. The findings indicate a visible tendency to favor Labor and Meretz.
—Dahaf's poll showed 23 percent floating votes, and Teleseqer's showed 14 percent undecided voters.

The question polled was: Were elections held today, for whom would you vote? (The results are quoted in Knesset seats)

Party	Dahaf	Teleseqer	Geocartographia
Labor	42	43	41
Likud	34	33-34	33
Meretz	11	11-12	11-12
Tehiya	4	3	4
Moledet	4	4	3
Tzomet	5	4	4-5
National Religious Party	5	5	5-6
Yahadut Hatora	5	5	6
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	5	4-5	4
RAKAH [New Communist Party]		3	
Arab Democratic Party [ADP]		3	
Progressive List for Peace [PLP]		0	
RAKAH + ADP +PLP	5		7
Moda'i	0	0	0
Immigrants	0	0	0

All three polls were conducted during the first three days of this week on a representative sample of the adult Jewish population. Dahaf's comprised 609, Teleseqer's 530, and Geocartographia's 1,000 respondents.

Yahadut Hatora, SHAS Sign Agreement

TA0506085592 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Jun 92 p 4

[Report by Tzvi Epstein]

[Text] Yahadut Hatora, which is comprised of the Agudat Yisra'el, Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el, Degel Hatora, and Moriya lists, signed a surplus vote agreement with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] on 3 June. There is fierce rivalry between the two factions, because SHAS fears that Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz [Moriya] will attract some of its voters.

No Labor Coalition With Arab Parties

TA0506085392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jun 92 p A4

[Report by Ron Koffman]

[Excerpt] Labor leader Yitzhaq Rabin addressed a rally of retired defense establishment workers in Tel Aviv's Gan Oranim Hall yesterday. Referring to the possibility that Labor might win the elections and be asked by the president to form a government, he said: "If we get enough votes to create a buffer that will block the establishment of a right-wing government, we will still have trouble forming a coalition, owing to the fact that we will not set up a government with HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Darawshah, and Mi'ari, even if they are part of this buffer and despite Likud promises that this is what we will do.

"We, too, engaged in horse trading in the past. The difference between us and the Likud, however, is that we learned our lesson and concluded that this cannot go on."

Rabin devoted most of his speech to the opportunity the State of Israel has to attain peace, noting that it might vanish and is not certain to be there in another four years. He lashed out at the Likud's top leaders, saying they do not want a peace process.

"They are treading water. Moshe Arens voted against the Camp David accords and Yitzhaq Shamir abstained because he was the Knesset speaker at the time. They will not bring peace with the Palestinians. This is an illusion; they are misleading the public," Rabin stated. [passage omitted]

Slovenian Minister Discusses Fighting in Yugoslavia

TA0306183892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Slovenia's information minister Jelko Kacin is currently visiting Israel. Gid'on Remez asked him how his newly independent republic views the fighting in Yugoslavia.

[Begin recording] [Kacin] We are not involved in any conflict on the territory of other republics or new states in former Yugoslavia. We are now preparing ourselves to start playing a more intensive role in the United Nations, to use all the mechanisms to overcome the present situation in Bosnia. But, the biggest problem is the direct involvement from Serbia. I wish that these sanctions would have some result, but I am a pessimist. I believe that it will not be enough, and we believe in a nearby future the United Nations and some more powerful states will have to do something more to urge the Serbians to stop their involvement in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

[Remez] You're talking about armed intervention?

[Kacin] Yes, I think about that.

[Remez] And Slovenia would not take part in that, I presume?

[Kacin] No, our constitution does not allow to send any military personnel out of our state. [end recording]

The Slovenian minister also said his republic hopes to develop trade ties with Israel.

Justice Minister Rebuts Betzelem Report Charges

TA0406112492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Report by Shula Schmerling]

[Text] Touring Haifa this morning, Justice Minister Dan Meridor inevitably referred to the Betzelem report. I reiterate, said the justice minister, the troops in the territories have been issued no orders or license to shoot or liquidate wanted fugitives as an alternative to the courts of justice. If the pursuit of dangerous wanted men, which is designed to protect the local population, gives rise to conditions in which the use of weapons is imperative, however, we definitely use them.

Dan Meridor went on to say: The proof that the method as alleged in the Betzelem report does not exist lies in the fact that last year, less than 2 percent of the wanted men hunted by the security forces were killed during pursuit. In any event, it should be remembered that last year, the activities of the crack units in the territories resulted in a dramatic decline in the incidence of both disturbances and stone throwing.

First Briefing for East Jerusalem Press Held

TA0406095592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jun 92 p 5

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] The first briefing for Arab reporters from East Jerusalem was conducted yesterday by the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. It was attended by 10 reporters.

There were some apprehensions before the briefing, which for several weeks had been meticulously prepared for. The guest list included Arab reporters from East Jerusalem newspapers, such as AL-FAJR and AL-QUDS.

The official topic of the briefing was the multilateral talks held recently in five world capitals. It was delivered by David Sultan, a Foreign Ministry assistant director general in charge of the Middle East, Egypt, and the administered areas. Reporters who attended the meeting said the atmosphere was festive, as befits the first event of its kind.

After the reporters posed questions, the briefing shifted to other issues, such as the demands of the parties to the bilateral talks.

'Arafat To Leave Hospital 'Within 48 Hours'

JN0406175992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Our political affairs correspondent reported a short while ago that His Majesty King Husayn this evening visited Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. His majesty was reassured about 'Arafat's health after his surgery at al-Husayn Medical Center on Monday.

The medical team supervising 'Arafat's treatment asserted, moreover, that the Palestinian president is recovering quickly and that he will leave the hospital within 48 hours.

[Begin recording] [Political Affairs Correspondent Kassab Samawi] Your Majesty the King, during these historic moments when you are showing your noble feelings toward the Palestinian president, we are reminded of the sincere and strong relations between the two leaderships and the two fraternal peoples, as well as Jordan's bond with the Palestinian cause. What do you say, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] May God bless you, sir. This is true, we are brothers and kinfolk. Thank God because He enabled us to do our duty toward a dear brother, who is at home and in his place among his brothers and kinfolk. Thank God for his safety. The results are very satisfactory. We have been reassured that he has completely recovered, thank God, and is on his way to return to a situation whereby he can continue the performance of his great duty, with God's care.

[Samawi] May God safeguard you.

[Husayn] May God bless you. [end recording]

Abu-Jabir on Quadripartite Meeting, Peace Process

JN0406184192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Jordan welcomed the holding of the quadripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab parties taking part in the peace process in Amman on Saturday and Sunday [6-7 June]. In an interview with our political affairs correspondent, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir hoped that the meeting would coordinate the positions of the Arab parties in the next stage of the bilateral talks.

[Begin recording] [Political affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi] Your Excellency, what does Jordan expect from the quadripartite meeting in Amman on Saturday.

[Abu-Jabir] First, we in Amman always welcome any Arab meeting. We believe that any meeting for Arab foreign ministers is an important event in itself due to the results of such a meeting. We expect that we will review what has happened in the peace process so far, then coordinate our future actions. As you know, we completed a number of bilateral rounds and one multilateral round. We believe that the next stage will be very important, so it is necessary to coordinate our viewpoints and to review the issues and how they can be presented during the next rounds of negotiations.

[Samawi] In light of the two previous meetings in Damascus and Beirut, do you believe that coordination among the four Arab parties is going well and is deep?

[Abu-Jabir] Yes, in fact there is understanding on all strategic points that concern the Arab nation and that concern us, the direct parties to the peace process, on the level of the Palestine question, occupied Jordanian territory, the occupied Syrian Golan, and also occupied southern Lebanon. There is full agreement on the strategic issues.

[Samawi] Will there be an attempt during this coordination to adopt a unified Arab position concerning Israeli provocations, the siege of the Gaza camp, and the continuous aggressions in south Lebanon?

[Abu-Jabir] I believe that this will be one of the issues that will also be presented at the meeting. We will discuss this subject very seriously and objectively as necessitated by this issue.

[Samawi] Is there anything new concerning the date for resuming the bilateral talks in Rome?

[Abu-Jabir] Nothing so far. We have no information on this subject other than that the talks will be held in Rome. As for the date, it will be a subject for discussion. [end recording]

Views Overall Arab Ties, Peace Process

JN0406114492 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 3 Jun 92 pp 8-9

["Open dialogue" between Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and "AL-UFUQ editors"—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-UFUQ] Jordan obviously has made many initiatives to reconcile with the Gulf states without receiving any favorable reaction. At the same time, Jordanian-Iraqi relations appear to be tepid. How do you explain this?

[Abu-Jabir] We are observing UN resolutions because the entire world is observing them. We, therefore, are strongly demanding that the Security Council resolutions relevant to Palestine be implemented.

[AL-UFUQ] What about Iraq?

[Abu-Jabir] Iraq itself is complying with the UN resolutions. A team will leave for Baghdad today to destroy nuclear equipment.

[AL-UFUQ] Is there anything new in Jordanian-Saudi relations?

[Abu-Jabir] Nothing after the opening of borders and the resumption of air flights.

[AL-UFUQ] What about the visit to Saudi Arabia by Information Ministry Secretary General Tirad al-Fayiz? Was it an official visit or did it merely seek to sound out a response?

[Abu-Jabir] I do not know. We have an ambassador there. [passage omitted]

[AL-UFUQ] Let us talk about your call for coordination with the foreign ministers of the Arab countries participating in the peace conference. When will you meet? What is the meaning of this coordination now if we are not going to speak with the Israelis before the Israeli elections? Is it an early coordination?

[Abu-Jabir] We will meet after 5 June. The meeting has many purposes: To discuss the overall situation of the Arab nation, to evaluate the peace process in terms of both its bilateral and multilateral talks, and to look forward to the future. In the last meeting held in Beirut, the heads of the negotiating Arab delegations were present. We analyzed what had happened, and we tried to achieve future coordination to deal with the peace process.

[AL-UFUQ] Is there a possibility of an Israeli invasion of Lebanon and a confrontation with Syria before your meeting is held?

[Abu-Jabir] I do not have any specific information, and I cannot make predictions about this.

[AL-UFUQ] In your meetings as Arab foreign ministers, is there an undeclared Syrian position?

[Abu-Jabir] In fact, no. During the latest meeting, an evaluation of all developments in the multilaterals and of the wisdom of boycotting the talks was made. The peace process is an integral whole, and I think attempts to divide it are "artificial." The issues of water and refugees, for instance, are political in nature. The conferences in Tokyo, Ottawa, Washington, and Brussels were attended by at least 21 countries each. The Tokyo meeting was attended by 38 countries. This gives us a chance to review the Palestine question in the presence of these countries and to support the Arab viewpoint strongly. Why should we deprive ourselves of this opportunity?

[AL-UFUQ] What can we say that we have achieved so far?

[Abu-Jabir] If we look at the results of the multilaterals, we can say that Europe has begun to understand our position. We also made gains at the negotiating table. It is true that no withdrawal was achieved, no rights were regained, and no Israeli commitment to end settlements and accept the land-for-peace formula was made. However, the Arab-Israeli conflict is a longstanding one, ideologically, militarily, and historically. Can it possibly be solved in a short time? [passage omitted]

Israeli Warplanes Reportedly Hit PFLP-GC Base

Two Palestinians Wounded

NC0506063592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0619 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] At 0840 today, Israeli warplanes carried out a raid on the outskirts of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent in the south said that the Lebanese Army fired on the planes with antiaircraft weapons. Initial reports indicate that the raid targeted a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine- General Command [PFLP-GC] center, destroying it and injuring two Palestinians.

Israeli Helicopters Fire Rockets

NC0506070792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Three Israeli helicopters carried out a raid on Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] targets in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 0840 today. The helicopters fired two rockets, one of them failing to explode. According to initial reports, two were wounded and there was extensive material damage. Our correspondent in the south reports that antiaircraft guns opened fire on the raiding planes from inside and outside the camp.

Israeli helicopters yesterday raided two PFLP-GC bases in al- Rashidiyah camp.

Raid Destroys Social Services Center

NC0506071692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] A number of people including children were injured in an Israeli attack this morning which targeted 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon. NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in Sidon said that three Israeli aircraft at 0830 raided a social services center in the camp's residential quarter, destroying the center and injuring a number of people who were taken to hospitals in Sidon.

Mock Raids Draw Antiaircraft Fire

NC0506084392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israeli enemy aircraft are currently flying over Sidon up to Iqlim al-Tuffah, staging mock raids. The Israeli aircraft are firing thermal balloons to avoid antiaircraft guns which the Lebanese Army is intensively firing.

PFLP-GC Building Damaged

NC0406171392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli helicopters this afternoon raided al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre. According to security sources, the Israeli helicopters fired rockets at a two-story building of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], injuring two Palestinian fighters and causing great damage to the building.

A Palestinian source said that two Israeli helicopters fired four rockets at two buildings belonging to the PFLP-GC at 1330 today, injuring two persons and causing some damage to the two buildings.

Al-Rashidiyah Tense Following Raid

NC0506050092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] A state of caution prevails in the south this morning following an Israeli raid yesterday on a position of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command in the al- Rashidiyah camp near Tyre.

Israeli military aircraft again flew over the south last night, particularly over Sidon and Tyre.

Israeli helicopters opened machine gun fire on the plains alongside the security strip. Kafra and Yatir, on the border with the security strip, came under heavy shelling from Israeli Army positions in Tyr Harfa.

The hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi yesterday evening came under intermittent shelling from Israeli 120-mm artillery.

PFLP-GC Urges PLO To 'Return to Struggle'

NC0506094492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Abu-Fida' 'Umran, official in charge of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] in Lebanon, has stressed that the PFLP-GC will continue the struggle against the enemy. He said: We have opted for armed struggle and we will meet the enemy face to face. The Israeli strikes will only increase our faith that our cause is just. He added: We tell the PLO leadership: Enough capitulation, return to your rifles and struggle; the land will not be liberated by the negotiators panting behind the crumbs of Shamir and his ilk.

Two Amal Members Wounded in Clash With Hizballah

NC0506051292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Two Amal Movement supporters were wounded during a one- hour clash yesterday between Hizballah and the Amal Movement near Jibshit before a Lebanese Army force intervened to end the clash.

AFP reported that the clash began following a quarrel between supporters of the Amal Movement and Hizballah elements who were pasting signs on the occasion of the third anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's death.

German Hostages' Release Linked to Velayati Visit

NC0406161592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Informed Lebanese sources said today they expect the two German hostages to be freed soon, following Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Beirut. AFP has quoted these sources as saying that the two hostages could be released this month before Velayati's visit to Germany. The same sources noted that Iran and Syria put pressure on the kidnappers, who seek to swap the two Germans with the Hammadi brothers, who are imprisoned in Germany.

Velayati Urges Hostages-Hammadis Deal

NC0406204092 Paris AFP in English 2011 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Beirut, June 4 (AFP)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has urged the family linked to the kidnapping of two German aid workers in Lebanon to free the hostages within two weeks, a Lebanese Government source said Thursday.

The source, declining to be identified, said the Iranian minister had proposed the Hammadi family should meanwhile pursue their negotiations aimed at securing an amnesty or early release for two Hammadi brothers jailed in Germany.

Velayati, who visited Beirut on Tuesday and Wednesday, had granted a "delay of a few days, but not more than two weeks" for the German hostages Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig to walk free, the source said. [passage omitted]

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 4 June reports: "AFP has cited a Lebanese Government source as saying that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who visited Beirut recently, gave the Hammadi family some time to try to persuade the German Government to issue an exceptional pardon for the brothers 'Abbas and Muhammad Hammadi, who are imprisoned in German on terror charges, through submitting a petition to this effect to Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

["The source said that Iran has lifted the political cover that it used to give to the Hammadi family."]

German Ambassador: 'Just Talk'

NC0506100592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh today discussed the situation in the south and the developments in the hostages issue with German Ambassador Peter Kiewitt. After the meeting, the German ambassador said he wished he knew the date of two Germans' release. We must not be overoptimistic, he said, noting that talk of their release within a few days is just talk.

The German ambassador expressed his thanks for Lebanon's efforts in this regard, especially as the Lebanese Government has formed a committee to discuss the case of the two hostages.

Al-Asad on Israel, Lockerbie, Ties With Britain

LD0406135392

[Editorial Report] BBC "Newsnight" program in English at 2130 GMT on 2 Jun carries a 10-minute report from correspondent Hugh Prysor-Jones in Damascus about the social and economic situation in Syria—including an interview with Syrian President al-Asad, with superimposed English translation.

Report opens with shots of street scenes in Damascus, cutting to shots of al-Asad meeting correspondent Hugh Prysor-Jones at the Presidential Palace.

Prysor-Jones begins by asking: "What do you think of Israel's strategy?

Al-Asad replies: "It's clear the present Israeli Government does not want peace, and it may find an opportunity to cover its attitude by talking about Hizballah or terrorism and thus create a justification for war in the region."

The program continues with shots of Syrian troops and a contingent of Finnish troops manning a buffer zone.

Al-Asad says: "The past six months have not given any indication that the Israeli Government is endeavoring or willing to achieve peace in the region. On the contrary, throughout these months Israel has been stressing, and continues to stress in public through Israeli officials, that it thinks it necesssary to cling to the Arab lands it occupied in 1967, and that the Arabs should agree on what Israel calls peace while Israel retains the Arab lands it occupies. Nevertheless, we do see a useful aspect in the meetings that have taken place between Arabs and Israelis."

Report then cuts to shots of the Golan where al-Qunaytirah's governor explains to American visitors how the Israelis' destroyed the city street-by-street.

Prysor-Jones then asks: "Has Syria had any part in the crash of Pan Am 103?

Al-Asad replies: "We discussed this question at length with American officials, we urged them to present us with any evidence or proof, anything that might implicate Syria. But they presented nothing, simply because they don't have what we ask for."

Prysor-Jones then says: "The hostage crisis resolution really helped to improve Syria's image, over which shadows had fallen because of these terrorist allegations [word indistinct], Lockerbie, particularly in the case of Britain. How have your relations with Britain improved in the last few months?"

Al-Asad says: "The affair that caused the controversy between us at some time in the past has been tackled by each one of our two countries according to its view. We believe we have overcome this now. At present we consider our relations with Britain good and friendly. We exchange telegrams, letters and contacts every now and then. In both countries we express hope to move towards better relations of cooperation. We don't currently see any obstacles along the path of developing our relations, we in Syria are very keen on this."

Prysor-Jones asks: "Is Prime Minister John Major then, someone with whom you can do business, and is he keen to do business with you?"

Al-Asad replies: "As you know we began to put an end to the problem at the end of the term of the previous government, and the beginning of the rule of the current government. As far as I can see, yes we can cooperate and do a lot that's in the interests of our two countries."

Report continues with footage of al-Asad's re-election, followed by shots of the Jewish quarter in Damascus.

Al-Asad then says: "You and I are now sitting in this place at the heart of the city of Damascus. Less than 150 kilometers away stored there is Israeli atomic weapons, and the missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads and heads of different kinds, all made by Israel with supplies and means its taken from some Western countries. Yet some states show concern over a tank coming to Syria, but show no concern over the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that exist and are ready for use, stored within this Israeli arsenal."

Prysor-Jones then asks: "Lebanon has been important to Syria, your troops are in that country, they effectively ended the civil war. But now Israel is insisting that you use those troops to control Hizballah in the south. Now will you do what the Israeli's demand or will you risk another war, because war has been mentioned?"

Al-Asad replies: "It is not we who take risks. Israel risks, Israel is the country which threatens to launch war. It is committing aggression against Lebanon. The Lebanese Government had devised a plan for the Lebanese Army to work in cooperation with the UN force for establishing security on the international borders between Lebanon and Israel. Israel insists on remaining in occupation of the part of the Lebanese territory. Israel statements to the effect that Israel demands so and so from Syria are proof of the aggressive spirit of the Israeli Government. I do not think that war is inevitable, however I can't say that Israel would not start a war. In our view Israel has two aims, first to obstruct the peace process, second the Israeli Government believes that by escalating military operations it will win more votes in the forthcoming Israeli elections."

Report concludes with further street scenes of Damascus.

Iranian Foreign Minister Praises Visit, Departs

JN0406110692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati left Damascus at noon today following a visit of several days [as

heard] to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr. Velayati said: During this visit, I conveyed a letter to President Hafiz al-Asad from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. We also held talks with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Our talks in this friendly country dealt with bilateral relations, regional cooperation, and the situation in the international arena. He described the results of his visit to Syria as positive. He also stated: Fortunately, existing relations between Iran and Syria are expanding daily and becoming stronger.

Dr. Velayati stated that his visit to Lebanon and his meetings with Lebanese officials there were valuable and very constructive. He expressed his conviction that cooperation between Iran and Syria, and between Iran and Lebanon, serves the common objectives of these three countries. He also said that such cooperation is fruitful and constructive.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e-Eslami Statement on Moves To End Turmoil

NC0306182192 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Islamabad, June 3 (AFP)—Afghanistan's Hezb-e-Eslami party Wednesday threatened to take unspecified measures to end the turmoil in Kabul in a statement carried by the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) received here.

In the statement, the faction of hardline Pashtun leader Golboddin Hekmatyar warned of "further disasters" if any hindrance was placed in its way to stopping the turmoil.

"Responsibility for any consequences would squarely lie with the perpetrators of the present chaotic situation," the statement said.

The Hezb did not elaborate on the "appropriate steps" it would take to "end the current turmoil speedily and safeguard Afghanistan's territorial integrity and national unity."

But, said the statement, "We cannot remain a silent spectator to the flouting of agreements."

The party said communist elements from the regime of ousted president Najibollah had been given a share in authority and that no steps had been taken to evacuate militia from Kabul despite agreements reached by a mediatory commission and an accord between Hezb and Jamiat-e-Eslami.

The statement said interim president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi had formed a cabinet even though an accord reached on April 24 only allowed him to accept a transfer of power, the Hezb said.

Afghanistan's prime minister-designate, who belongs to the Hezb, should have been invited and the cabinet formed with his consultation, the statement said, adding that nothing had been done toward holding elections.

"Non-observance of the agreements has resulted in insecurity and disorder in Kabul and skirmishes among different groups," the statement said.

Interim Regime 'Likely' To Enforce Cease-Fire

BK0406122492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 4 (AFP)—The caretaker Afghan Government is likely to enforce a ceasefire, if necessary by military means, to stop inter-sect fighting that has left hundreds of casualties in Kabul, officials said Thursday.

Mediation by government forces which began Wednesday night was to end late Thursday, and a deadline for the fighting between rival Hezb-e-Wahdat and Ettehad-e-Eslami forces would be ordered Friday, Uzbek militia commander Nawab Khan told a press conference.

"The ceasefire would be enforced by all coalition forces and endorsed by the Supreme Leadership Council," the officer said, as shells pounded the city's southwestern suburbs, killing and wounding scores.

According to estimates given by the militia, at least 60 people have died, wounded and 600 taken prisoner during the past two days of fighting in Kabul between the Shiite Wahdat and the Sunni Ettehad.

"Whoever disobeys the deadline would be punished and pushed out of the city," Nawab said as his 15,000-strong, battle-hardened Uzbek force prepared for possible action.

The pro-Iranian Wahdat is aligned with a northern mojahedin alliance headed by Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum, but the militia's local chief in Kabul said his men would take up arms against the Shiites if they do not fall in line.

Khan also said his militia would order a strike against "foreign" Arab advisors—the Saudi-funded Ettehad if they do not leave the city.

Caretaker government Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as well as the Uzbeks, had been holding secret parleys with the two traditionally hostile mojahedin factions since Wednesday night, but without result.

Some 15 mojahedin factions poured into Kabul after the April 28 transfer of power to an Islamic government headed by caretaker President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

Since then fighting on ethnic lines and religious and factional hostilities have continued to plague the city of 1.5 million.

Uzbeks Clash With Hekmatyar in Southern Suburbs

BK0406131092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 4 (AFP)—Fresh skirmishes broke out between Uzbek militia and the forces of radical mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar in the southern suburbs of Kabul Thursday, adding to the chaos in the city, military sources said.

The sources said Hekmatyar's troops had advanced on the Uzbek militia posted in the crowded Charasiya district and fought a battle that lasted for almost four hours.

Details of the front fighting between the two bitter foes, which had been suspended for almost ten days, were not known.

"The attack has been repulsed," said one Uzbek commander, without elaborating.

Kabul is already in the grip of the third straight day of heavy street fighting between rival Shiite and Sunni mojahedin factions, the Hezb-e-Wahdat and the Ettehad-e-Eslami which has claimed hundreds of casualties, many of them civilian.

The Uzbek militia, who are allied to the interim government and have some 15,000 troops in Kabul, have been trying to mediate between the Shiites and Sunnis, but say their main function is to defend the city from attack by Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar's forces have been massed to the city's south since the communist regime in Kabul was toppled April 28. One of his demands before joining the interim administration is the withdrawal of the Uzbeks from Kabul.

Kabul Red Cross Hospital Shelled

BK0406121692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 4 (AFP)—Cannon shells slammed into a Red Cross hospital here Wednesday as fierce fighting erupted between rival mojahedin groups for the third straight day, officials said.

Surgeons working non-stop since Tuesday in the 300-bed International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hospital were forced to take cover, leaving dozens of wounded people as shells hit fuel and generator rooms, ICRC chief Laurent Corbaz said.

The hospital remained paralysed for two and a half hours from 8 a.m (0330 GMT) as renegade Ettehad-e-Eslami and Shiite Hezb-e- Wahdat men broke a temporary truce forged earlier in the day and attacked each other.

"There is very heavy fighting around the ICRC hospital and at least 40 people with wounds have come in. Many of them have died," Corbaz said, adding that the doctors could not perform operations due to the power failure caused by shelling. Fighters of the Pashtun-speaking, Sunni Muslim Ettehad-e-Eslami faction attacked ambulances carrying wounded soldiers of the pro-Iranian Wahdat, witnesses said. Several vehicles with Shiite civilians were also raked with gunfire, they said.

Arab aid workers living in the city's once-posh Continental Hotel fled the complex fearing an attack by advancing Hezb-e-Wahdat fighters, witnesses and hotel employees said. Fleeing residents reported heavy fighting in the Kabul's Karte Seh and Karte Char districts and an area near a government wheat silo.

Relief workers touring the city counted at least nine people lying on the ground in Taimani in northwestern Kabul but could not confirm whether the bleeding men were dead.

Anti-aircraft gunfire in the city's busy Pule Khishti mosque area triggered panic, while mojahedin fighters shut down the money exchangers market, the country's economic barometer.

ICRC officials said they were not planning to shut their main hospital in Karte Seh. The Red Cross was in contact with various mojahedin groups occupying Kabul to ask them to clear the hospital area of the fighting.

Hundreds of Shiite civilians have fled the city and were reportedly sheltering in Khair Khana district, but sources reported rocket attacks by the Sunni group in that area also.

The two traditionally rival groups have been fighting in Kabul since Tuesday, turning the internecine mojahedin fueding into a war between different Muslim sects, officials said.

Several members of the interim Islamic government were seen leaving their office in heavily armed convoys as security in Kabul tottered, witnesses said.

Telecommunications and several other vital departments showed signs of strain as workers, many of them Shiites, refused to return to duty because of the clashes, which have reportedly left up to 100 dead so far this week.

Nervous fighters with defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Jam'iyat-e-Eslami were staying out of the battle, although some militia tanks were seen racing towards the city's western edges.

"Kabul is turning into a ghost town," said a resident in Wazir Akbar Khan, the diplomatic area, referring to the panic which has kept the city's 1.5 million people indoors for the last three days.

Strangely enough, schools continued to function, and witnesses said they actually saw some small children returning home from a French-aided school near the Foreign Ministry.

Sunni Rebels Continue Attacks on Shiite Bases

BK0506075692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 5 Jun 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, June 5 (AFP)—Renegade rebels, ignoring government appeals for a ceasefire, continued hitting Shiite districts and military bases on Kabul's western edges Friday, informed sources said.

The Sunni rebels, belonging to the Ettehad-e Eslami mojahedin faction, fired rockets and shells into the battle-torn Kote Sanghi district in a fresh attack that began early Friday, they said.

It was the fourth day of violence involving rival Afghan groups, split on ethnic and religious lines, which has left

scores dead and hundreds wounded or missing in this capital of 1.5 million people.

"We cannot come out of our houses because of the shelling," a Shiite employee of a diplomatic mission in Kabul said, adding that Ettehad gunners were firing from positions in the Paghman mountains on the edge of the city.

On Thursday, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of Afghanistan's interim Islamic government, warned that the defence ministry and Uzbek militia forces would intervene if the Ettehad and the Hezb-e Wahdat, a coalition of eight Shiite factions, failed to agree on a ceasefire.

"We have announced several times that we do not want to fight, but the Ettehad are arming themselves for an attack," a Wahdat spokesman said.

Shiites, he added, would "only defend" themselves when attacked.

The Wahdat, from Afghanistan's neglected central provinces, are allied with a northern Afghan coalition that backs the interim government. The coalition also includes Uzbek militia and influential Jamiat-e Eslami guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

The Ettehad, led by Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, refuses to join the interim government. Its commanders have set up a base in the Paghmans to battle the Wahdat forces.

Hundreds of homes have been hit by shellfire, a Red Cross hospital damaged and dozens of vehicles destroyed since the fighting erupted Tuesday, following an attack on neutral mojahedin council leader Jallaloddin Haqqani.

The Wahdat was initially blamed for staging the attack on Haqqani in its territory.

Later another Shiite faction, Harakat-e Eslami, arrested three gunmen of holdout Pashtun mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, saying it was they who had fired on Haqqani's motorcade.

The Wahdat says Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami attacked Haqqani to descredit Shiite Muslims who are demanding proportional representation in the 51-member interim government, scheduled to hand over power June 28 to a supreme mojahedin leadership council.

Mojaddedi's administration, which took control after ousting Afghanistan's former Soviet-installed regime on April 28, was reportedly poised to ink a power-sharing accord with the Wahdat when the fighting flared Tuesday.

Heavy Fighting in Kabul as Cease-Fire Collapses

BK0506105492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 5 Jun 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, June 5 (AFP)—Intense fighting was reported Friday in central Kabul as rival Afghan mojahedin factions battled for a fourth straight day, causing a ceasefire signed overnight Thursday to collapse.

Sunni Muslim Ettehad-e-Eslami and Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat fighters clashed near a cinema in the city center less than an hour after the two groups began exchanging prisoners taken earlier in the week.

One house was set ablaze after an artillery bombardment as people fled the area, reporters on the scene said.

Sources in Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud's camp said more battles between Ettehad and Wahdat had erupted in the city's west side, with tanks, rockets and cannons being used.

Fighting also flared near Kabul zoo, leaving several buildings badly damaged by cannon and tank fire, and near a polytechnic institute and other areas, they said.

They added that a second Shiite group, Harakat-e-Eslami, had joined Wahdat in the latest round of fighting, more than a month after the downfall of Afghanistan's former Soviet-installed government.

"The Wahdat and the Harakat are now allied against the Ettehad," a Wahdat spokesman said.

Friday's fighting came despite a truce signed overnight Thursday at the intervention of Mas'ud's forces and Uzbek militia allied to the defence minister. It was the third truce since Tuesday.

A Mas'ud-Uzbek peacekeeping force was keeping away from the sectarian conflict, which so far has left more than 100 dead, 400 wounded and up to 1,000 missing and presumed taken hostage.

At least 50 people have been wounded in Kabul's central district since Tuesday, said the reporters who were in the area Friday.

"We will not interfere.... Let them sort out their own problems," a militia source said.

Earlier Friday, a Wahdat spokesman said his group, a coalition of eight Shiite factions from Afghanistan's neglected central provinces, did not want to fight its "Ettehadi brothers."

But he accused Ettehadi, lead by Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, of using the ceasefire to rearm its forward positions.

One source said that despite Friday's fighting, an exchange of prisoners was taking place across Kabul, and that government and Uzbek forces were positioned as "a shock absorber" between the rival groups in the battle-scarred Karte Se district.

The Wahdat spokesman accused the Ittehadis of abducting four carloads of Wahdat fighters.

He added that Wahdat forces had killed an Arab military advisor to the Ettehadi on Thursday, and said this was evidence that Saudi Arabia—a supporter of Ettehad—was behind the latest conflict.

The Hezb-e-Eslami faction, led by holdout mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, which shares ideological and religious beliefs with Ettehad-e-Eslami, said it would not send its troops to fight against the Wahdat and Harakat.

The two groups, he said, were strong enough to take on their Shiite rivals on their own.

Tehran Reportedly Blamed for Split

BK0406111392 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Peshawar—Professor 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf's Ettehad-e-Eslami, which clashed with the pro-Iran Hezb-e-Wahdat supporters in Kabul on Tuesday, has blamed Tehran for the present split among various religious and ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

Without naming Iran, an Ettehad spokesman said that "a Shia majority neighbouring country" was responsible for the present situation. He also objected to the term pro-Saudi Arabia for Ettehad-e Eslami by the Western press and certain elements and claimed it had never received a single penny from the Saudi Government.

Meanwhile, Prof Sayyaf assorted that the Hezb-e-Wahdat "Which was armed, equipped and provoked by a foreign country" had triggered the bloody clashes in Kabul. In a wireless message from his base in Paghman near Kabul, he alleged that Hezb-e-Wahdat had always acted as a tool in the hands of foreign forces against Afghanistan's interests. He also accused it of attacking residential areas in Kabul.

The AL-BUNYAN news service, which is pro-Sayyaf, reported that Ettehad-e-Eslami had beaten back a Hezb-e-Wahdat offensive and captured 200 Shiite militiamen. It also conceded that four Ettehad men died in the fighting.

Prof Sayyaf earlier in an interview with Qatar TV called for a broader political unity among Afghan Islamist parties to meet the external and internal threats posed to Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY [ANA] reported that a ceasefire brokered by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's administration and Kabul security council headed by commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud between Ettehad-e-Eslami and Hezb-e-Wahdat had failed to control fighting in Kabul. It said scores of people were killed and wounded when rockets, SAKR-20 missiles and mortars were used in the skirmishes, mostly in Kote Sangi area. It also claimed that militia boss General Momen had reached Kabul to command his forces and Gilumjam militia was backing Hezb-e-Wahdat.

The ANA also reported that some members of the peace mission who approached the combatants for talks in Kabul were injured when the tank in which they were travelling was hit by rocket fire.

Hekmatyar Interviewed on 'Jehad' Objectives

NC0406171992 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Jun 92 p 5

[Interview with Afghan Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar by AL-AHRAM correspondent 'Abd-al-Nasir Salamah at Hekmatyar's "fortified castle in Sarowbi, approximately 40 km from Kabul, deep in the Hendu Kosh mountains;" date not given]

[Text] [Salamah] Is the Afghan jehad over?

[Hekmatyar] The jehad will continue until all its objectives are realized, until an Islamic state led by the mojahedin is established, until judgment day. We exercise jehad in the same way we perform prayers; we cannot say prayers are over.

[Salamah] Do you not believe, then, that the Islamic jehad is passing through its worst era?

[Hekmatyar] Praise be to God, we have found solutions to most of the problems and realized most of the jehad's objectives. Only some minor problems remain. We are facing an international conspiracy led by those who fear an Islamic state in Afghanistan, but we have high hopes in God Almighty that all the conspiracies will fail.

[Salamah] What objections do you have on the current situation?

[Hekmatyar] Kabul was opened without a drop of blood and its people came there from the fronts and from the prisons, reaching the presidential palace and the government house, where they raised the mojahedin's flags because the war was over. Everybody must cooperate on peace in this country. Next, we want the interim government to function and to hold elections within six months. The militias started a war in Kabul and the communist officers, the remnants of the communist regime in the Army, cooperated with the militias, starting a war in Kabul one day after it was opened. They bombarded graveyards, villages, and homes and killed many people. We decided not to let the war or this situation continue. We only decided to stay around Kabul in the military centers until all the militias were expelled from Kabul and the communist officers removed from power.

[Salamah] Why do you object to the militias' presence?

[Hekmatyar] We are not the only ones; all Kabul's inhabitants and even all the mojahedin object to their presence. Today I learned that all the field commanders of the Kabul fronts and those of the south in Lowgar, Jaji, (Bektika), and (Ghozni) met and unanimously declared their opposition to the militias' presence, deciding that they, and those who came with them, must

leave within a week, to be replaced by the mojahedin from Kabul's fronts so that a truly Islamic army could be established.

So we are not alone in this position; all the people demand it. The militias have been fighting the Afghans all these years; the militias replaced the Afghan Army, which finished several years ago. Popular pressure meant Najibollah's ousted government had to get these militias out of Kabul, where they were thieving, attacking honor, and murdering.

[Salamah] The dispute between you and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud is said to be a personal and ethnic one, dating to the days when you were university students?

[Hekmatyar] The war in Kabul was not among individual mojahedin groups, but with the militias. It was not between Hezb-e Eslami and Jami'at-e Eslami or between the party and the government, but between the party and the militias.

Differences in opinion exist everywhere, among any groups or political parties. We are now refusing alliance with the militias or communists. The Mas'ud group supports alliance with the militias and uses the communists unabashedly. This is the point of dispute.

[Salamah] Some say you negotiated with the militias and with Najibollah some days or weeks before Kabul was entered. So why do you reprove Mas'ud?

[Hekmatyar] They [the militias] contacted us more than once and sent messages. They asked us to recognize them and to become allies but we refused, saying: The only choice is surrender. Benefit from the general amnesty because there is no other solution. Nothing more than this happened.

[Salamah] When will you be compelled to take military action? Could this really happen and when?

[Hekmatyar] We do not want to attack Kabul and we do not want the problem to be solved militarily. We are committed to the cease-fire agreement and are not retaliating against their attacks on us, so avoiding bloodshed and the destruction of Kabul. We can do many things, for example, declare there will be no flights from Kabul. We can bombard any house in Kabul, but we do not want this; we only want to stay in our positions around Kabul to pressure the militias into leaving. We want the problem to be solved peacefully.

[Salamah] They say Hekmatyar is an extremist, a zealot, and a dictator and that he has no shura council he can go to when he must make a decision. Is this true?

[Hekmatyar] Our party is the only one that has a shura council, the only party that believes in elections. Its shura council and executive committee are elected and this happens only in our party, where there are principles and lists. We had five elections, the last one last winter, when one million members took part. We formed an elected council of 300 members and a 13-member executive committee.

[Salamah] How far will Islamic laws be enforced in Afghanistan? Will Islamic forms of punishment [hudud] be carried out?

[Hekmatyar] Absolutely. We want to implement Islam in its entirety, not in any diminished form, as some keep saying.

[Salamah] Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has employed several former communists in the Defense Ministry. Will you, once you are inside Kabul, agree to Mas'ud staying on as defense minister?

[Hekmatyar] We have not agreed on that, we will wait and see if we can or not.

[Salamah] Does this mean Mas'ud's presence in the top defense post is still a subject for debate within your party?

[Hekmatyar] Very much so. The agreement reached in Peshawar calls for forming a committee, yet to be named, to discuss issues relating to ministries, method of elections, and so on. The situation is not final.

[Salamah] When can it be announced officially that an Islamic state has been established in Afghanistan without any problems? Do you feel this has already been done? Or do you think the time for such a move is yet to come?

[Hekmatyar] We need time to form an Islamic state in Afghanistan. This is our aim, but several obstacles remain.

[Salamah] Do you believe Western media have given fair coverage to the news of the Afghan mojahedin?

[Hekmatyar] Western media have depicted the fighting in Kabul as fighting among the mojahedin. This fighting was between the mojahedin and the remnants of the communist regime in Afghanistan, who are still present in Kabul. I assure everyone the problems will be solved and an Islamic state will be established in Afghanistan. I also call on those who are sympathetic to our cause not to trust the Western media because they are waging a defamation campaign against the mojahedin. Everyone should know that those loathed by Western media deserve to be trusted, while those praised by it should not. Western media will only praise us if we turn our backs on Islam and do what the West wants us to do.

Western media see us as extremists because they hoped the West would replace the Russians in our country. We did not allow this to happen. We said we would fight the Russians and all those who wanted to impose a puppet regime on us. We want an Islamic state in Afghanistan and they are afraid of that. We want to live as free men.

not as slaves of the West, which wants no independent Islamic state. This is why Western media are being so unfair to us.

Bangladesh

'Sources' Say 7 Army Generals 'Retired'

BK0406161792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0425 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Dhaka, June 4 (AFP)—Seven Bangladesh Army generals have been retired and one of them will be appointed as an ambassador abroad, defence and official sources here said Thursday. Those retired Wednesday include Major General Andul Latif, chief of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles, and Dhaka's ambassadors in Malaysia, Brazil, the Philippines, Germany, and Yugoslavia.

The sources told AFP the seventh general is currently commanding a "sensitive" area in southeastern Bangladesh but his services have been entrusted to the foreign office for posting abroad.

The defence and home (interior) ministries have issued no statements so far, but on Wednesday a top home ministry official confirmed Latif's retirement, while a Defence Ministry official neither confirmed or denied the report.

"Till now we do not know about the retirements officially," he said.

Reasons for their retirement were sketchy, but all were reportedly close to ousted Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Latif was at the Home Ministry Wednesday and held a "lengthy" meeting with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, ministry sources said, without elaborating.

Sources close to the military said the large scale retirement of top military brass, who were known for the power they had during Ershad's nine-year rule, signalled that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was moving slowly to replace such officers with non-controversial ones.

Zia, who assumed power in elections after Ershad's ouster in a popular revolt at the end of 1990, also heads the Defence Ministry.

Burmese Refugee Talks Scheduled for 15 June

BK0506045692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] are to hold another high-level meeting on the 15th of this month at Maungdaw to discuss the repatriation of Rohingyas. The decision was taken at the official-level meeting between the two countries in Teknaf yesterday. At the meeting, the Myanmar side assured that they will take all possible steps to stop influx of Rohingyas into Bangladesh. The Myanmar side also informed that five reception camps inside Myanmar are ready to receive Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh. The 12-member Bangladesh team was led by relief, refugees, and repatriation commissioner Khondaker Shaheedul Islam, while the 10- member Myanmar team was headed by Director of Immigration Division Win Sein.

There are 256,544 Rohingya refugees in different camps in Bangladesh. One lakh 76,992 have been shletered in (?tents), while others are living under open [words indistinct].

At a high-level meeting in Dhaka yesterday, the latest developments in the process of repatriation of refugees was also reviewed. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury presided. An official spokesman said a number of decisions were taken to facilitate repatriation.

The Foreign Office yesterday briefed the heads of diplomatic missions about the latest position of the Rohingya problem. It sought their countries cooperation in early repatriation of refugees to Myanmar. The envoys were apprised of the complications that arose in the way of safe and voluntary return of the refugees due to [words indistinct] conditions.

JP Sets Ultimatum For Ershad Release

BK0406075592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Dhaka, June 4 (AFP)—Deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party (JP) has threatened to launch an anti-government movement unless its convicted leader is freed by June 30, press reports here said Thursday.

The JP would go for "democratic movement" if Ershad is not released by the deadline, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of the party was quoted as telling several hundered activists in southwestern Magura district Wednesday.

The programme included courting arrest by thousands of JP activists, the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) quoted Chowdhury as saying.

Chowdhury, a former prime minister, did not specify the reasons behind his demand for the release of Ershad, but alleged that JP leaders and workers were being harassed and detained by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on "false charges."

Ershad, Bangladesh's longest serving president, was forced to step down in December 1990 in the face of a mass revolt that ended his nearly nine years of military-backed regime.

A 62-year-old former general, Ershad was subsequently tried and convicted in two cases of possessing unauthorised weapons and corruption and sentenced to 13 years

in prison. He has appealed against both the convictions by special tribunals, while still being tried in several other corruption cases.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Rio Earth Summit

BK0506015692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka yesterday evening for Rio De Janeiro to lead the Bangladesh delegation at the current Earth Summit. He will deliver a speech on Wednesday next [10 June]. Bangladesh is to put forward several proposals to help protect the environmental interests of the developing countries.

India

PRC Nuclear Test Said Factor in Deciding Policy

BK0506032692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. P.K. Iyengar, has urged the political leadership in the country to take into account the recent Chinese nuclear test before framing India's response to nonproliferation. He told newsmen in Puna as a country we are not against nuclear nonproliferation, but some countries continue to demonstrate their nuclear weapons capability. He said the recent Chinese nuclear explosion has shown that they are still sharpening their arsenal.

In reply to a question, Dr. Iyengar said no decision has been taken on the sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran.

Delhi Urges Review of 'Racist' Fiji Constitution

BK0406161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] India has called for an immediate review of the racist Fijian Constitution which denied power to the ethnic Indians. Replying to questions by newsmen at a press briefing in New Delhi today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry expressed the hope that a review of the Constitution will take place soon to remove its discriminatory features. This, he said, will enable all citizens of Fiji irrespective of their origin to thrive in an atmosphere of freedom and equality. The people of Indian origin constitute 50 percent of the Fijian population. But they have been allotted only 27 of the 70 seats in the House of Representatives under the Constitution.

Commentary Urges Sri Lankan Political Settlement

BK0406142192 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Commentary by P. Tarien of HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] The fierce fighting that is going on in northern Sri Lanka might appear to be a fight to the finish between the government troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]. But it is not so. What the island republic is witnessing is only another phase of the confrontation between the two. In the last four days, more than 250 Tamil militants and quite a few troops have perished in the fighting. The Army's claim is that it is extending the area under its control. The Air Force is also pounding the LTTE positions. In places like Palali, Maviddipuram, (Kolduwan), (Kottankaladi) and Tellippalai, the LTTE has suffered a severe setback. It is possible that the army attack on the LTTE will intensify in the coming weeks. Whatever be the gains of the Armed Forces, it remains to be seen whether the Premadasa government can hope for an outright victory over the Tamil Tigers.

Obviously, the government's calculation is that, in due course, it will be able to eliminate the LTTE as it had wiped out the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. But it seems to be underestimating the LTTE's strength. The Tamil militants still retain a firm control over a large area and a huge Tamil population. Though the Armed Forces have an upper hand in the confrontation, where they are likely to fail is in retaining their gains. A backlash from the militants cannot be ruled out.

It is significant that the Army offensive coincided with President Premadasa's visit to northern Sri Lanka. While the troops were attacking the Tamils, he told a public meeting in the northern town of Vavuniya that he and senior government officials had come to the north not to conquer the area with violence, but to promote brotherhood and friendship among communities. He said we came here not to conquer, we do not want to defeat any one, we want to win over everyone through consultations, compromise and consensus. No doubt, these are high-sounding brave words. But, what is the reality? An understanding between the militants and the government is still a dream. On the contrary, the conflict between the two is only deepening and the blame for this rests on both.

Looking back at the genesis of the ethnic crisis one can discover the mistakes committed by them. Had the former president, Mr. Jayewardene, initially conceded the demand of the Tamil United Liberation Front for regional councils, the crisis would not have deepened to this extent. Or for that matter, the estrangement between the Tamils and the Sinhalas would not have reached the present critical stage if the postindependence rulers of Sri Lanka had deftly tackled the ethnic problem from the very beginning. Unfortunately, even India's role in the Sri Lankan crisis only worsened the problem.

Anyway, the relevant question is whether an amicable settlement of the ethnic conflict is possible in the present critical situation. The Premadasa government should know that a military victory over the LTTE without a political solution to the ethnic problem will not bring lasting peace to the island. Even if the LTTE is defeated on the battlefield, it will be in a position to create problems for the government.

The best course for the government, therefore, will be to concede the legitimate demands of the Tamils while being stern with the militants. It should take into account that the LTTE has virtually stopped demanding an eelam—an independent Tamil state. Instead, its demand is the permanent integration of the northern and eastern province and recognition of this territory as the natural homeland of the Tamils. There might be a catch in the LTTE's revised demand. The Sinhala community views it as an indirect way of getting a separate Tamil state. The very fact that the LTTE has not been banned in Sri Lanka may be an indication that at the appropriate time the Sri Lankan Government will not be wary to enter into a dialogue with the militants. Even a settlement with the moderate Tamils cannot be ruled out. But there is no cause for undue optimism. One thing is clear: both the Premadasa government and the LTTE are in no mood to relent. The fighting is likely to continue for some time more and depending upon which side gains the upper hand, the future course of any settlement, if possible, will be decided.

Assuming that the LTTE will be vanquished, the government will be committing a folly if it tries to humiliate the Tamils. They should not [as heard] get the autonomies they are demanding. Autonomy is the best safeguard against separatism. Their struggle all these years has been to ensure that their economic and cultural progress goes on unimpeded in their own country.

New Central Asian Division in External Ministry

BK0406151292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] A new Central Asia division has been created in the Ministry of External Affairs which will look after the six republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union and Turkey. These are Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India has recently signed agreements with these newly independent countries establishing diplomatic and consular relations.

Iran

Further on 3d Anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's Death

President Cited on 'Worldwide Enemies'

LD0406164592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met university students this morning, on the eve of the anniversary of the heartrending demise of Imam Khomeyni—the great leader of the Islamic revolution—to present an analysis of our country's regional and global position. [passage omitted]

He said: It has been three years since the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution. The world suspected that the revolution would face difficulties, because it relied heavily on the imam. Thank God that did not happen and that the revolution continued along its course properly. [passage omitted]

Referring to the Islamic revolution's numerous worldwide enemies, he said: It is not as if we sought to make enemies. Basically, for the sake of their interests and preserving their power, our enemies are against the plan entitled the Islamic way of life in the world. They do not accept the rule of religion—of Christianity, Buddhism, or whatever—if it does not conform to their views, which is why our task in the world is so difficult and so important.

The president said that the affinity of the world's earnest and justice-seeking revolutionaries with the Islamic revolution was a source of strength for the system. He said: To weaken the Islamic revolution, our global enemies resort to particular political and propaganda methods and cultural invasion to create problems for us from within and mar the reputation of the revolution in the world. They do this extensively. To that end, they mischievously try to distort the shining reputation of the imam of the ummah and prevent his name from being mentioned in the world. In the midst of all that, we are dutybound to present to the world all aspects of Imam Khomeyni's existence as a comprehensive and complete personality, an authoritative administrator, and statesman.

He referred to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran's geopolitical position has become considerably stronger since communism was eliminated, contrary to what the big powers thought. He said: While preserving our revolutionary characteristics, by increasing our scientific strength, implementing infrastructure programs, providing energy, and moving toward complete independence, we should act so that the world accepts us as a reality and forgets any thoughts of eliminating Iran. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Speaks at Khomeyni Tomb

NC0406095892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0555 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, at the tomb of Ayatollah Khomeyni in Tehran on the third anniversary of Khomeyni's death—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The third anniversary of the death of the great founder of the Islamic Republic and the great modern standard-bearer of Islam and the Koran brings to mind the bitter days and the soul-rending experience of the Iranian nation, all Muslim nations, and the oppressed of the world. [passage omitted]

The imam's death was critical in many ways. Perhaps most significant was that Iran began a great test. The revolution, system, and popular movement led by the imam were examples not only to Muslims but for many

nations. Upon his demise, people wondered what Iran would do after losing the beating heart of its Islamic system.

Today, three years after his death, I can say that the Iranian nation has passed this test. The nation continues to follow the imam's path—just as it did during the great Iranian revolution, the imposed war, and various other tests. [passage omitted]

The imam's line calls for rule by the imam of the ummah; that is, someone to interpret the system of the Islamic Republic. There are several other characteristics of the Islamic Republic that were accepted by the imam, may his soul be sanctified.

The first characteristic is resistance to foreign domination and refusal to compromise with foreign powers.

The second characteristic is belief in individual action and resistance to passion and temptation. The imam did not differentiate between these two important issues and these two arenas of struggle. He resisted the Great Satan and the satans of power in the social and political fields. In his inner soul he resisted temptation and insisted on devotion, Islamic behavior, and individual action.

The third characteristic is giving importance to the capability and determination of nations. The imam spoke about nations, saying that if nations carry out the world's great developments, they will be undefeatable and able to bring about change in the world and the atmosphere they live in.

The fourth characteristic is insistence on Islamic unity and the struggle against the discordant policies of arrogance.

The fifth characteristic is establishing healthy and friendly relations with other countries, under certain conditions, each of which is based on sound reasoning. The imam taught us that Iran can and should have healthy relations with other countries. Naturally it is impossible to have relations with the United States, because it is an arrogant and aggressive oppressor hostile to Islam and Iran. It is also impossible to have relations with the Zionist regime or the racist South African regime. Relations with other governments depend on the interests of the Islamic system, although, as a rule, we should try to establish relations.

The sixth characteristic is insistence on breaking the wall of bigotry, on the need for Islamic understanding and behavior, and on recognizing pure Islam. The imam rejected both bigotry and suppression in his thoughts and words, and he believed in using correct terminology in understanding Islam.

The seventh characteristic is focusing on helping the oppressed and ensuring social justice. The imam always thought the people were a major consideration. The oppressed were at the center of his decisionmaking process, and he believed that all economic and other activities should be based on helping the oppressed.

The eighth characteristic is giving special attention to the struggle against the usurping Zionist regime occupying Jerusalem. The struggle against Israel had a special position in the imam's beliefs and policy and is something that no Muslim nation can neglect. The great imam correctly identified the destructive role of the imposed regime years before the revolution.

The ninth characteristic is the fight against any slogan of discord, preserving national unity, and creating harmony in the Iranian nation.

The tenth characteristic is preserving popular rule and establishing and preserving contacts with the people. The imam advised officials to avoid distancing themselves from the people and to consider their needs, ensuring that there would be contact between the people and their officials. He also advised the people to support their officials. The imam confronted all those who weakened the system and the government in any way.

The eleventh characteristic is insistence on reconstructing and building a practical example for others. In the last months of the imam's blessed life, this issue held special importance. He insisted that the country's economy, infrastructure, and income be rebuilt, so that it could become a genuine example of Islamic reconstruction.

These are what I consider the main points of the imam's views and policies. [passage omitted]

The arrogant powers are trying to convince the people of the world—not the Iranian people, because Iranians recognize the truth—that a new era has begun in Iran since the demise of the imam, which is a great lie. It is an insult to the Iranian nation, which stood behind its imam to expose and threaten the centers of arrogance. The nation believes that continuing along the imam's path is the way to salvation.

Iran has correctly identified the danger. The greatest threat to our nation and our revolution is infiltration by the powers of arrogance—especially the United States, the remaining superpower. We are well aware that arrogance was waiting for the imam to leave the people, thinking that it would be able to attack this great fortress once it had lost its guardian. But our nation defied the forces of global arrogance and America and will continue to do so, God willing. [crowd shouts "God is great"]

Of course, the enemy has not been idle during these past three years. It has resorted to many restrictions and various pressures to wear down and demoralize the Iranian nation. But we resisted and passed the test. God rewarded you—the combatant and courageous people—for your steadfastness. Over the past few years, our nation has won many victories.

The return of our dear prisoners of war, one of the concerns of this nation, was one of these divine rewards.

World recognition of the warmongering Iraqi regime as the aggressor was another of God's rewards, which proved that our cause was just and which was not a small

political incident, for it showed how oppressive the propaganda, plots, and schemes against us were during those eight years. [passage omitted]

Another reward was that many of those who joined forces against Iran during the eight-year imposed war were punished. The Soviet Government, Iraq's primary supporter, disintegrated. In Europe, those who had helped Iraq the most were slapped hard in the face. Many governments in our own region that supported Iraq and confronted you—the oppressed nation—were punished over the past three years. These are all signs of the divine blessings on our nation. Those who remained immune thus far will receive their share. [passage omitted]

Among our other divine rewards during the past three years were the great strides that have been made in national reconstruction. The sympathetic officials exerted great efforts, and much has been accomplished. This should continue, and, God willing, the country will move closer each day to reconstruction and the goals set by the imam.

I will now discuss the future. What will our future path be? In short, we will continue along the path of the imam and the revolution, the path of resisting the superpowers, defending the oppressed, defending and raising the banner of Islam and the Koran throughout the world. [crowd shouts "God is great"]

We will oppose oppression, arrogance, and pressure on nations. We will resist bullying by the superpowers and compromise with Israel. We will defend the oppressed Palestinian nation any way we can. We will defend the Lebanese nation, which is under pressure by the Zionists. We will support and defend Islam—which has awakened as nations revive their Islamic identity—anywhere in the world. [crowd shouts "God is great"]

Now that the Eastern superpower has disintegrated and has been destroyed, America is the world's unrivalled superpower. America and its allies feel proud, making the mistake of thinking that they can govern the world according to their wishes. The new world order and the new arrangements they propose for the world are based on the United States playing the central role, along with the lesser powers, and their domination over the world, its nations, its resources, and its waterways. In short, they believe that they control the fate of the world.

Today the hegemonistic powers are no longer facing the Eastern Bloc and the former Soviet Union, and they believe that the fate of the entire world and global decisionmaking power should be placed in their hands. They are confronting anything that blocks their way. I believe that the United States and its allies regard Islam as the greatest obstacle to their domination of the world. Therefore, fighting Islam is a major part of the new world order and U.S. policy. They intend to fight and crush Islamic movements wherever they emerge. They support and encourage any reactionary government, despot, or tyrant that rises against the Muslims, which is their policy, although they refuse to admit it.

Arrogance cannot tolerate Islamic unity. It will not let Islamic sentiment grow, whether in Asia, Africa, or especially Europe. You see what they are doing to the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina; one day the Muslims in Albania and elsewhere in Europe will also face a bitter fate and their own difficult tests, which is a result of the policy of fighting Islam. World arrogance hates the Islamic movements in Africa, and it is sensitive to Islamic awakenings anywhere. The major powers say that they should participate in other counties' elections, that they should go and supervise the elections to ensure they are free. What they really want is to prevent Muslims from coming to power through elections or through the parliamentary process. We saw this happen in Algeria, where the elections were unfortunately crushed.

They are strongly confronting Islam and are especially disturbed by Iran. They know it was the resistance of the great imam in Iran that awakened nations, gave them hope, and encouraged them to act; this is why they oppose the Islamic Republic. Iran and the Muslim nations should know, however, that there is another reality. The will, resistance, struggle, and refusal of nations to surrender have always overcome the arrogant plots and always will. [crowd shouts "God is great"] [passage omitted]

The only alternative is resistance. As the imam said, Iran should be united and devoted to Islam. It should strive for reconstruction and support its officials. It should not fear the powers, the United States, or enmities but should rely on God. It should be confident that this will lead to victory.

In conclusion, I thank our dear nation for its steadfastness and patience. In the recent elections, your participation increased the credibility and prestige of Islam. Thank God, the Fourth Majles has been elected. You stood behind the officials. It was God's blessing that you supported the officials and the government. I sincerely thank each and every one of you, the dear nation. [passage omitted]

I sincerely thank the government for exerting all the efforts that a competent and good government can exert. It is working with great understanding. An understanding government is a great boon to any nation. An understanding government that is interested in offering its services is extremely valuable. A government whose members do not think of personal interests but work for God and the benefit of the nation is extremely valuable. I thank these dear people in the presence of our great imam and almighty God.

I want to thank the esteemed family of this spiritual dignitary and his dear son—Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni—for their sincere and sympathetic position over the past three years. They have done what the imam wanted and expected his family to do; they have spoken and worked for God. We hope that they will, God willing, be successful.

I thank the bureaucracy for its adherence to the criteria and positions of the imam's line. I thank the members of the judiciary and legislative branches. The entire country has one basic policy; that is, pure Islam as manifested by the imam of the ummah—may his soul be sanctified—his path, and his line. This is very valuable; it is the way the nation and the government think and act.

I expect our nation to continue to move along this path. The people should stand behind, help, sympathize with, and be sincere with their officials. I expect the officials to continue along the path of the nation and especially of the deprived, the poor, and the oppressed in society. They should be the criteria for all efforts and activities. These are the people who the imam said own this country, who went through the war, mobilization, and devoted defense against the enemy's aggression. Everything should be done for them and in their interests. We hope that God will help us all succeed.

I will say some prayers in this divine hall and in the presence of you, the pious people, hoping that—God willing—they will be fulfilled.

Almighty God, let us always be steadfast in the path of Islam, the imam's line and the teachings of the Koran. [crowd shouts "Amen"]

Almighty God, let Iran defeat the enemies of Islam. [crowd shouts "Amen"]

Almighty God, let the Muslim nations around the world defeat their enemies. [crowd shouts "Amen"] [passage omitted]

Official Lauds 'Orderly' Ceremonies

LD0406164492 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—More than 10 ministers, a vice-president and 35 other world dignitaries including parliament speakers and deputy ministers as well as tens of researchers and university chancellors attended the ceremony marking the third anniversary of the demise of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni on Thursday, said head of the headquarters in charge of the ceremony Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam told IRNA at the end of the ceremony this afternoon that the event was held more magnificently, orderly and efficiently than previous years.

He said that millions of people from throughout the country, some one million from remote provinces, and 1,300 caravans of people from the nearby provinces took part in the ceremony and all were provided with lodging and food by the headquarters.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari further added that everything was well organized and as for transportation, the arrangements were made in coordination with the Interior Ministry so that the traffic was moving smoothly and the pilgrims to the holy shrine of Imam Khomeyni were transported without any difficulty.

He said there was no traffic jams and some 8,000 buses as well as tens of thousands of cars transported the pilgrims to the holy shrine since last night.

He said Muslim guests from the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union and from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Hezbollah forces from throughout the world were invited for the occasion.

In addition, some 7,000 more foreigners had come to Iran on their own. If the headquarters had no limitation on providing lodging and food, tens of thousands of more foreigners would have come to Iran for the ceremony, he noted.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam further underlined the uniqueness of the ceremony adding that there is no other occasion in the country when the highest ranking personalities of the Islamic Republic would take part collectively. Leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, judiciary head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the newly-elected Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri and top-ranking military commanders took part in the ceremony which was held at Imam Khomeyni's holy shrine in southern Tehran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari said that taken the unprecedented number of the mourners present at the shrine, difficulties and shortcomings were only natural.

On covering the expenses of the ceremony, he said that all facilities and costs of event have been provided by various organizations and institutions and people. He added that most foreign guests, among them many women, present at the ceremony had expressed great desire to attend the occasion.

Meanwhile, the headquarters had set up 20 mobile clinics with 1,000 doctors, nurses and relief workers in and around the imam's shrine.

Also 1,052 ambulances and three helicopters were transferring patients to the clinics or to hospitals in the capital.

Some 6,500 received out-patient medical treatment since last Tuesday and 16 patients were taken to hospitals for further treatment. Moreover, 20 hospitals in Tehran were on alert to receive patients in critical health conditions.

Meanwhile, an insurance company provided coverage free of charge to all the mourners for a period of 48 hours starting this morning.

Besides the food and drinks provided by the headquarters, the farmers of the nearby villages offered the pilgrims with snacks and fresh water.

To facilitate the commuters, several repair shops offered free service to the motorists.

The law enforcement forces were on duty in 150 police stations and 200 police cars were patrolling the area. 8,000 law enforcement officers were in charge of traffic and order.

Meanwhile, thousands of mourners spent last night in and outside the shrine holding prayers and listening to speeches by various ulema.

Meanwhile, to commemorate the third anniversary of the imam's demise, the chimes of the Armenian churches in Tehran were tolled at 10:00 hours local time today. The Armenian representatives and religious leaders laid flowers on the imam's shrine. Many Armenians attended the ceremony along with their Muslim fellow-countrymen.

On the occasion, similar ceremonies were held in many Iranian cities and towns as well as world capitals.

Also special ceremonies were held in various world capitals including Damascus, Beirut, Abu Dhabi, Harare, Islamabad and several other Pakistani cities, New Delhi, Dhaka, Ankara, Bonn and Munich in which various speakers talked about the character, aspirations and achievements of Imam Khomeyni in reviving Islam and promoting Islamic values and unity.

President Cited on 'World Environment Day'

NC0506075692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent a message to the nation marking 15 Khordad [5 June], world environment day. The president stated in the message: Man's environment faces an unprecedented crisis that—contrary to other problems—is not confined within the borders of countries but is a worldwide problem rooted in basic socioeconomic shortcomings and in the unhealthy relationship between man and nature.

Noting that the current unhealthy, unstable environmental situation is dangerous and harmful to all mankind, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The key to solving the current universal environmental crisis is liberal cooperation and solidarity among all peoples. Governments have no alternative but to cooperate sincerely toward this end.

The president stated that environmental preservation—which is one of the crucial principles of our Constitution—is no more than correctly managing man's wise exploitation of nature and that this does not impede advancement but ensures stable, persistent, and healthy progress that conforms with the international strategy of preserving nature and natural resources. Based on its deep belief in confronting environmental problems, the Islamic Republic will conduct its international and regional responsibilities to the best of its ability in unison with all the appropriate and responsive world organizations.

Mashhad Law Enforcement Commander Dismissed

NC0406202292 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] According to reliable reports, following the heroic demonstrations by the people of Mashhad, officials of the Khomeyni regime dismissed the commander of the regime's law enforcement forces in Mashhad.

The mercenary commander of the Mashhad law enforcement forces, Ra'is Manshian, was demoted and another mercenary named 'Ali Akbar Medadi was appointed in his place. This mercenary was earlier in charge of repression in Khuzestan Province. The frightened officials of Khomeyni's regime arrested and removed all the personnel of police post number three in Mashhad on charges of not being able to control the situation, not combating the onslaught of the furious people of Mashhad, and allowing themselves to be disarmed by the demonstrators.

The lackey mayor of Mashhad had earlier announced in an interview in Mashhad that those who were lax in preventing the incidents in Mashhad will be dealt with seriously. According to the latest reports received from Mashhad, officials of the Khomeyni regime have imposed a situation resembling martial law in Mashhad for fear of recurrence of the display of fury by the people. These reports add that the regime's lackeys stationed 8 to 10 Toyota vehicles—on which machine guns were installed—in the compound of the Mashhad governorate. Despite all these repressive tactics, the lackeys of the regime, who have not been able to stem the tide of the fury of the people who have reached the end of their endurance, are living in a state of abject fear. According to reports received from sources within the regime, the extent of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] bases in Mashhad and the large number of its supporters, which increased during the Mashhad demonstrations, has generated fear among regime officials. At one of the regime's internal meetings it was stated that the mojahedin had always had bases inside Mashhad and their headquarters in Mashhad was very strong. Even now a large number of former mojahedin members reside in Mashhad. At this session one of the participants expressed apprehension at the possibility of the infiltration of pro-mojahedin elements in government departments in Mashhad and cited certain examples in this regard. The governor general of the Khomeyni regime in Khorasan admitted that the heroic people of Mashhad had taken control of the city and wrested the initiative in the recent demonstrations. Jannati, the criminal governor general of the regime in Khorasan, in his interview last night on the regime's radio, contemptuously referred to the heroic people of Mashhad as hooligans and vagrants, adding: When they took control they vandalized many banks and government installations.

Therefore, the antihuman regime of Khomeyni dispatched the prosecutor cleric Ra'isi along with a number of other executioners to Mashhad in the capacity of special judge and interrogator. In the regime's media it

was stated that these brutes will interrogate the arrested persons around the clock and will issue the verdict to execute some of them in the next few days.

At the first session of the Majles clerics stable, five of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's stooges in the reactionary Majles from Mashhad (?spoke against) the demonstrations there and denounced Mashhad's people for their fervent and heroic uprising. They said the disgusted people's great Mashhad demonstrations were a (?crime) and called on Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his cohorts to take severe steps and to prosecute them. The criminal Mashhad mayor, commenting on newspaper reports, said that a bullet killed only one student. AFP cited his remarks, stating that the Mashhad residents reported far more deaths. The Majles deputies accused MKO supporters of being the catalyst of the great Mashhad demonstrations.

The heroic acts of Mashhad's people instilled fear in the regime's decrepit elements. The newspaper SALAM, which adheres to the imam's line, described the people's uprising and demonstrations in Mashhad, Shiraz, and Arak as resulting from intense economic pressure on the people and dismissed as a figment of a sick imagination the ruling party saying foreign instigation inspired these protests. SALAM wrote: Today we cannot use such justifications to explain current events, because they are not realistic. This newspaper, a mouthpiece of the [word indistinct] faction, castigated the regime and its propaganda machine for keeping silent about the extensive protest movement in the various cities and stressed that the events in Shiraz, Arak, and Mashhad and similar incidents in other cities should not be ignored. It added that there is silence on these events, while those in Los Angeles are given front page coverage in the regime's papers.

We now present some news reports sent by our compatriots and MKO supporters to the Voice of Mojahed:

From Shush: After the Voice of Mojahed radio reported the setting on fire of the regime's book exhibition in the city of Shush, Voice of Mojahed received more comprehensive reports stating that after this exhibition of deceit was set on fire, intense clashes ensued between the people and the regime's armed repressive agents, when five people were killed and 50 wounded and arrested.

Shush and Dezful are reported to be extremely tense.

Mashhad: With regime agents and officials issuing threats of punishment and execution for those arrested in the recent demonstrations in Mashhad, the people have been heard saying that if the regime executes even one person, we will not sit silent, but will make these criminals regret they were born.

Shiraz: According to reports from Shiraz, numerous arrests have raised the number of inmates at Shiraz' 'Adelabad prison to 3,500.

Tehran: After the heroic demonstrations of Arak and Mashhad, a rash of antiregime graffiti has appeared at Tehran University. The slogans usually refer to support for the demonstrations and invite students to join the movement.

Esfahan: The resisting workers of the Esfahan steel mill's construction and renovation department resorted to strikes and made the regime accede to their rightful demands. According to reports, on 26 May, the same mill workers went on strike to protest enforced retirement. The regime's officials, fearing the strike spreading to other departments, particularly the [word indistinct], and of the furnaces being extinguished, tried to use promises to make the workers abandon their strike.

The mill's director general met the striking workers twice, but the knowing workers accepted no hollow promises, saying their strike would only end with the overt, official announcement that their demands had been accepted.

At the workers' insistence, on 30 May the regime's officials at the steel mill officially announced that enforced retirement would be waived; the workers victoriously returned to work.

Crime Prevention Authorities Meet in Ninth Session

LD0406083892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The ninth session of the Crime Prevention headquarters was held this morning, attended by the justice minister, state prosecutor general, and a number of judicial authorities. During this session, some decisions were made about internal regulations of the headquarters in charge of investigating juvenile delinquency in the provincial capitals. The results of the study and research undertaken by the juvenile delinquency committees—which compiled the law about the juvenile courts—were raised; and it was agreed on to pass the ratified regulations to the Majles judicial and legal commission.

After the session, the state prosecutor general in an interview with our correspondent stated: On the basis of the recently approved regulations, any wrong deeds, which might threaten the country's security, will be dealt with swiftly. He stressed the need for the people's vigilance in all fields to prevent the occurrence of any undesirable incident.

Further on Fourth Consultative Majles Session

Commitment to Legislative Branch Pledged

LD0206213192 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Deputies of the fourth term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) here today issued a declaration avowing commitment to the legislative branch and to the edicts of the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

They said in the communique that the fourth Majles would, at all costs, remain committed to the aspirations of Imam Khomeyni as much it would challenge the traditional system of domination in its global sense.

The Majles deputies said they would support all peoples that wage a struggle against the Zionists and other predatory world powers as much as they would support Islamic Movements.

They also vowed to strive for better legislations in the interest of the Iranian public and especially the lower income and the no-income class.

New Majles Speaker Confirmed

LD0206165492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Majles held an open session this morning. During the session, the credentials of a number of other deputies were approved; voting was held for electing the permanent Majles Presidium, and Mr Nateq-Nuri was elected Majles speaker. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] With the approval of the credentials of 236 deputies, voting was held—according to Article 26 of the Majles' internal regulations—to elect the permanent Majles Presidium for a one-year term. Mr 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri was elected Majles speaker with 191 votes, from a total of 230 votes. Messrs. Hasan Rohani, with 200 votes, and Akbar Parvaresh with 180 votes, were elected first and second deputy speakers. During today's open session, the credentials of 64 more deputies were approved. The credentials of Messrs. Qasem Sho'leh-Sa'di, from the constituency of Shiraz, and Abolfath Niknam, from the constituency of Tonekabon and Ramsar, were referred to the investigation [tahqiq] commission. In addition, the credentials of Mr Mohammad Reza Rahchamani, deputy for Sabzevar—which had been referred to the investigation commission in the last session—were discussed and approved. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] According to our correspondent—in continuation of today's open Majles session—after a recess, a letter from over 180 deputies to the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution [Khamene'i] was read. In the letter, the deputies thanked his eminence for his message to the Fourth Majles. The report states: The results of the votes for electing secretaries and service managers [karpardazan] were announced as follows: Messrs. Sobhani-Nia, Shahrzad, Angaji, Rahimi, Bahonar, and Akrami were elected secretaries; and Messrs. Taqavi, Askarowladi, and Zayeri were elected service managers of the Majles Presidium.

Speaker Cited on Cooperation

LD0406091992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The speaker of the Islamic Majles, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, at a meeting with the Majles staff this morning, stated: One should accept a post of responsibility solely to please God by serving the Muslims; and such a service is highly valuable.

According to a report by our correspondent, during this meeting, the Majles speaker reiterated the need for cooperation and coordination to promote the aspirations of the Islamic revolution. He also stressed the need for carrying out instructions of the leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i].

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: I do not believe in the divisions known as the left and the right. We must try to solve such problems in society. We have a leader, and our guidelines should be instructions by the leader. Of course, our tastes might differ, but it should not mean clashes and rudeness in society.

He called on Majles employees to observe piety, Islamic morals, and administrative hierarchy in performing their duties. In conclusion, Mr. Nateq-Nuri paid tribute to the Third Majles Presidium, the deputies and particularly Mr. Karrubi for their efforts in compiling and ratifying bills.

National Oil Director Reviews Current Capabilities

LD0206023192 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—Iran ranks fifth for its oil resources among the world main oil producers and for exploration operations, said exploration and production director of the National Iranian Oil Company Ali Moshtaqian here today. He said most of the oil exploration operations, especially before the Islamic revolution in Iran, had been carried out at regions which did not pose any technical difficulty, with the result that oil resources in other areas of the country were still untapped.

Before the revolution 14 foreign oil enterprises were operating at various oil fields in Iran, all of which terminated their activities after the revolution, noted Moshtaqian in an interview with IRNA.

Following that, he said, exploration operations somewhat slowed down but that eventually last year oil exploration activities were stepped up. He said five oil rigs were now operational including one at the Caspian Sea, two at the Persian Gulf and two on land in southern Iran.

According to Moshtaqian exploration operations were carried out in 1979-92 in 24 oilfields which were expected to contain oil and gas resources.

"Of the said oil regions, eight fields proved to have oil and another eight fields had gas resources, and the rest had no reserves at all," he said, and added, two-thirds of the oilfields offered oil and gas resources which, was a very good yield.

Moshtaqian said the gas fields at 'Pars-e Jonub' in the Persian Gulf was explored last January which, he said, is among the world's biggest gas fields. The field contains 100 trillion cubic feet deposits of natural gas and between 2.5 and three billion barrels of various classifications of liquid gas resources.

He noted that over the past three decades the discovery was unprecedented for its magnitude, and added that resources at Pars-e-Jonub were worth about 200 billion dollars at current prices.

He said the exploration operations in sea in the coming years would improve, adding that the first oil well was dug at the Caspian Sea last year which indicated the presence there of gas. He said digging for a second well at the Caspian Sea would start later on.

"Our northern neighbors have dug seven thousand wells in the northern part of the Caspian Sea and we should dig at least ten exploratory wells to find out our exact resoucres there," he said. At a near future Iran would perhaps utlize satellite technology for discovery purposes, he added.

From 1956 until 1991 research was carried on black and white maps that were not exact but since 1991 iran has been using satellite pictures of 200,000 square kilometers including western regions and Khuzestan, which were taken by a French-made satellite.

He said agreements had been concluded for taking photos from 600 thousand square kilometres in Iran that had a priority including 200 thousand square kilometers in Fars Province which is a major gas resource and east of 'Sarakhs' north east of Iran as well as 200 thousand square kilometres around Caspian Sea and at the foot of the Elborz Range.

Moshtaqian referred to the condition of 'Naftshahr' south of Iran and said after Iraq's withdrawal from that city all of the oil wells had been blocked by cement and eight active wells were totally destroyed there. He added of that total five oil wells had been re- drilled which would supply 20,000 bpd [barrels per day] of oil. The next objective there, he said, was to produce oil from the western region for 'Bakhtaran' refinary that would eventually refine 40 thousand barrels of oil daily, he continued.

According to the official in 1979 about 332 million cubic metres of gas was produced that reached 16,200 million cubic metres last year.

Moshtaqian said the daily gas production in Iran averaged 45 million cubic metres which, he said, was still below the optimum daily capacity of the country.

In conclusion he referred to the 20-year oil development program of Iran and said gas production would reach 800 million cubic metres per day in another 20 years.

Esfahan Petrochemical Complex To Operate in Fall

LD0406101892 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Esfahan, June 3, IRNA— Esfahan Petrochemical Complex is to start tentative operation this fall, according to an executive of the complex here today. Later on in 1994 it will produce 75,000 tons of benzene, 20,000 tons of toluene and 66,000 tons of paraselenea and other chemicals.

The products of the complex will help create between 30,000 and 60,000 jobs with the petrochemical industries.

Thus far about 120 million dollars plus another 45,000 million rials has been invested on the complex.

The Esfahan Petrochemical Complex is among the largest post-revolution infrastructural projects.

The contract agreement for the complex was signed in May 1987 with the national Iranian petrochemical industries having the larger share in the project.

The input chemicals for the complex will be supplied from an oil refinery in Isfahan.

Djerejian Cited on Call for Talks With Tehran

LD0406211992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 4 Jun

[Text] Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, on 3 Jun called for direct talks with the Iranian officials' representatives.

He said: We earlier announced our readiness to conduct direct talks with Iran's official representatives concerning Tehran-Washington ties, but Iranian leaders opposed these dialogues.

Referring to Iran's regime policies, he stated: Iran's policies regarding its neighbors in the Persian Gulf—where the United States has vital interests—as well as in Central Asia should be carefully considered.

Djerejian called Iran's opposition to Arab-Israeli peace talks as another obstacle hindering friendly relations between both countries and said: Iran's support for Hezbollah (?which is opposed to) the trend of Arab-Israeli talks, is among the serious problems.

Embassy Denies Iran Forging U.S. Dollars

LD0206082792 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, June 2, IRNA—The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Monday categorically denied allegations that Tehran had forged U.S. dollar banknotes.

An embassy announcement termed as "baseless" and "fabricated" the allegations by the French newspaper LE FIGARO. The newspaper had alleged that certain elements affiliated to "Iranian-backed terrorist groups" have been seen spending feigned U.S. dollar banknotes. It further alleged that the Iranian Government, faced with financial problems, has secretly joined the international ring of U.S. dollar forgers.

Denying any kind of assistance by Iran to any terrorist group, the announcement condemned the opponents and the enemies of the Islamic Republic for disseminating such lies. "The objective behind such fabricated lies is to mar the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the announcement said.

Further on Velayati's Visits To Lebanon, Syria

Meets With Lebanese President

LD0206211892 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Beirut, June 2, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with Lebanon's President Ilyas Hirawi, here today.

He delivered a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Lebanese president and exchanged views on the current developments in Lebanon as well as in the region.

Hirawi appreciated Iran's stand towards Lebanon's problems and described Velayati's visit to Beirut as "a positive step to further consolidation of relations between the two countries."

Velayati arrived in Beirut today after visiting Syria.

Cited on Support Against 'Zionism'

LD0406162792 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Thursday afternoon that Iran, Syria and Lebanon unitedly stand against Zionism.

Speaking upon arrival in Tehran from a four-day visit to Syria and Lebanon, he added both Tehran and Damascus will support the resistance of the Lebanese people. He said that the two countries share many common stands on regional and international issues and regular contacts will be beneficial for both of them.

On his talks with Lebanese officials and ulema, he said the discussions will immensely help continuation of the resistance of the Lebanese people.

On the recent Zionist attacks on Lebanon, he said unfortunately the United Nations, other world bodies and Islamic and non-aligned countries have not reacted to the latest Israeli aggression.

Before leaving Damascus this morning Velayati met with Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and discussed the developments in southern Lebanon.

The Syrian official referred to the expansionist goals of the Zionist regime and its enmity with Islamic countries adding that Israel is continuing with its expansionist policy through facilitating Jewish migration to the occupied territories.

He praised the Islamic Republic's policy in the region and described it as a wiseful [word as received] stance.

Velayati condemned the Zionist crimes against the people of southern Lebanon and praised the Muslims for putting up a heroic resistance.

The two sides also discussed the current developments in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics and Karabakh region.

During his four-day tour of Lebanon and Syria, Velayati held talks with the Syrian and Lebanese presidents and other senior officials of the two countries and discussed the regional as well as the world issues, the situation in Lebanon in particular.

Prior to his departure, Velayati told IRNA here that his talks in Syria and Lebanon were "positive" and "constructive".

In Damascus Velayati submitted president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria.

He also said that his visit to Lebanon, the first by an Iranian foreign minister since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, had positive results.

In Beirut he met with the Lebanese president, prime minister, foreign minister as well as religious leaders of the country.

Habibi, Manafi Participate in Earth Summit

LD0406230492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The conference on development and environmental protection opened yesterday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the UN secretary general's speech.

From the Islamic Republic of Iran, First Vice President Mr. Hasan Habibi and the head of the environment protection organization, Deputy President Dr. Hadi Manafi—who also heads the environment protection organization and is deputy president for environment protection—are participating in the conference.

During the inaugural session of the meeting, Mr. Ghali stated: The whole world should act as a family to improve the environment, to fight poverty, and to settle the differences between Southern and Northern countries. He stated: The outcome of this conference is for the welfare of future generations.

Industries Minister Makes Visit to Germany

Cited on Security for Foreign Investment

LD2705130892 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Bonn, May 27, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran's current regulations on foreign investment guarantee full security, said visiting Iranian Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh here Tuesday.

Addressing a group of German industrialists in a gathering organized by German Chamber of Commerce, Ne'matzadeh added that the laws on protection of foreign investments in Iran have created a "favorable and secure atmosphere" for foreign investors.

"The present laws and regulations pose no restrictions or limitations on investments in Iran," Ne'matzadeh reiterated, adding "the regulations on protecting foreign investment are totally reliable."

Spelling out the regulations, the minister said they include "liberty in deciding the percentage of partnership by foreign investors as much as 100 percent, guaranteed payment of compensations in case of denying ownership or nationalization of capitals, allowing unlimited transfer of the principal and the interests of capitals, calculating the incoming and outgoing capitals on floating rates of foreign exchange."

Ne'matzadeh, who arrived here last Monday [25 May] on a four-day visit, told the German industrialists that under the new economic policies, the government supports activities of the private sector, economic liberalization, promotion of non-oil exports, attracting foreign investors in joint ventures in the form of buy back deals and counter-purchase.

On the pricing system in the Iranian market, Ne'matzadeh said, "the pricing system has been abolished and the market mechanisms are at force."

According to the minister, exporters can exchange their revenues on floating rates of foreign exchange. The move will double Iran's non-oil exports in 1992.

He also called for further strengthening of Tehran-Bonn trade relations and creating a balance in the bilateral trade in favor of Tehran. He said Iran-Germany trade was 8,200 million German marks [DM] in 1991, 6,700 of which was German exports to Iran.

He reiterted the need for boosting Iran's oil and non-oil exports to Germany.

Ne'matzadeh noted that the deficit in bilateral trade rose from DM2,700 million in 1990 to DM5,400 million in 1991 to the detriment of the Iranian side. Iran, which used to supply 20 percent of Germany's oil before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, in the recent years has been supplying only 2 to 3 percent of the country's needs, he added.

Says Visit 'Fruitful and Valuable'

LD0206091792 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh Monday described the outcome of his recent visit to Germany and his talks with German officials as "fruitful and valuable".

Ne'matzadeh, who returned from a six-day visit to Germany Saturday [30 May], said that Tehran-Bonn trade volume stood at 8.2 billion German marks [DM] in 1991, of which Iran's share was DM1.5 billion and Germany's DM6.7 billion.

Pointing to the outstanding imbalance in trade volume between the two countries, Ne'matzadeh called for a balance in this respect.

Iran's investment in Germany is presently twice as much as Bonn's in Iran which Ne'matzadeh said should be increased on the basis of mutual interests of the two countries.

He noted that he had discussed removal of bottlenecks on the way of several Iranian export commodities to Germany for which German official had made positive promises.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With German Minister

LD0206172892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning met with Mr. Bernd Schmidbauer, German Chancellery state minister. Mr. Schmidbauer submitted the message he was carrying from the German chancellor and expressed profound regret at the incidents that occurred against Iran's embassy in Germany. He hoped that with the arrest of the elements involved in these incidents, these kinds of incidents will not be repeated. He also conveyed the German chancellor's interest in continuing the useful telephone contacts that led to fruitful exchanges of opinion. And he said that Germany is prepared to eliminate existing obstacles impeding the expansion of relations between both countries.

Next, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr. Helmut Kohl for his message and welcomed contacts and exchanges of opinion with him. He noted: We see a very good future for Germany and believe that Germany could be one of our best partners in the West; and past relations and their growing trend confirm these cooperations.

The president noted the changes that occurred in the former Soviet Union and stressed the need for cooperation with the newly independent countries. He expressed the hope that cooperation between Iran and Germany may bring valuable results for the region and for both countries.

Regarding Germany's legal commitments in conducting projects that have not been implemented until now, he hoped that these commitments would become workable. He added: In our future program, in spite of the world's false propaganda, we are not in the phase [last word in English] of military issues, and we have given priority to reconstructing our country.

French Reconnaissance Plane Crashes in North

NC0306134892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 0330 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Sources close to the Iraqi Kurds report that a French F-1 Mirage aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Irbil, northern Iraq, while on a reconnaissance mission. The same sources say the pilot ejected before the aircraft crashed and was slightly hurt.

The French Air Force press center confirmed the crash. The aircraft belonged to the 33d Reconnaissance Squadron, based in Strasbourg.

Yugoslav Airline Flights To Tehran Canceled

LD0206170592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] The Civil Aviation Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran has cancelled all Yugoslav Airline [JAT] flights to Tehran. A statement issued by the organization reads that following the massacre of the Muslim and defenseless people of Bosnia-Hercegovina by Serbian forces, for the purpose of implementing the Iranian Government's stated positions to boycott that country, all JAT flights between Belgrade and Tehran have been cancelled.

Austrian Envoy, Va'ezi Discuss Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD0306143892 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—The Austrian foreign minister's special envoy, Anton Prohaska, in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ezi praised Iran for her stand towards the developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) and called for Tehran-Vienna cooperation in finding a solution to the crisis.

Prohaska is here to submit the Austrian foreign minister's written message on the situation in B-H to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Prohaska also briefed Va'ezi on the Austrian move to contact with the Islamic Conference Organization and other international bodies over the crisis.

Va'ezi condemned the expansionist policies of the Serbian Army and massacre of the innocent and defenceless people of B-H. He said that further continuation of the conflicts in B-H will destabilize Europe.

Prohaska also met with Foreign Ministry Director for Western Europe Hamid Reza 'Asefi and called for strengthening of Tehran-Vienna economic and cultural ties.

'Asefi expressed satisfaction with the upward trend of bilateral cooperation and called for diversifying and balancing trade ties which, he said, will be effective in promoting bilateral cooperation.

Envoy to Vatican Criticizes 'Negative' Press

LD0206223492 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Rome, June 2, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to the Vatican Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Masjed-Jame'i discussed Tehran-Vatican relations as well as the situation in the Balkan region with Secretary of Vatican's Foreign Affairs Jean Louis Tauran here today.

Urging further contacts between the two states' officials, the ambassador criticized the negative stance of the Vatican press, especially the organ of the council of Italian archbishops, towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He noted that the press are free and independent in Iran, but that they respect the Vatican's head of state, Pope John Paul-II, and other officials.

"We expect the Vatican press to consider mutual respect and take the first step towards expansion of relations between Iran and the Vatican," said the ambassador.

Vatican's secretary of foreign affairs assured Masjed-Jame'i that he would consider his remarks in that respect and that he would do what he could to clear up the mist in the relations between Tehran and the Vatican.

The church affiliate press in the Vatican have recently published negatively biased and highly prejudicial reports in relation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Envoy to Riyadh Reviews Regional Relations

PM0206144692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 May 92 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Mohammad 'Ali Hadi, Iranian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Bunyan] Why do you object to the Damascus Declaration?
[Hadi] We have no objection. We have our own viewpoint, which is that any security arrangements in the region must consider Iran. The Iranian presence in the region cannot be ignored, because we are all partners in the region and are interested in preserving the region's security and stability. We do not object to relations between others. We do not interfere. That is no concern of ours, even if there were special internal security relations between these states. What concerns us is the

security of the region as a whole, because we are partners. One partner does not ignore another. Investment arrangements among these states are also their own business. We actually support inter-Arab investment, because we support Arab unity, which will in the future be the nucleus of Islamic unity.

[al-Bunyan] What is your concept of security arrangements in the region?
[Hadi] It is that the region's security and stability its states' responsibility. [passage omitted]

[al-Bunyan] The Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran recently met with the Iranian deputy foreign minister and proposed an improvement of relations with Baghdad...
[Hadi] Relations with Iraq cannot be restored as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power. The meeting you mentioned dealt with the remaining POW's and some problems that exist.

[al-Bunyan] Political observers say that Iran wants to become a military power and to revive its role as the region's policeman now that Iraq's power has been curtailed.
[Hadi] There is no such intention. Our view of the region is different from the shah's. We believe that cooperation among all the region's states without any discrimination is necessary for maintaining the security and stability of our region, which is rich, sensitive, and important. We all share that task.

We are all partners with common interests. We are not interested in Iranian hegemony over the region or control of the region. We do not want to dominate the region, nor do we want anyone else to dominate it. Also, we do not covet a single inch of others' territory. We reject the idea of a regional policeman. [passage omitted]

[al-Bunyan] But arms deals have been concluded, and there is some Iranian extension in the direction of the Islamic republics and Sudan.
[Hadi] First, it is not in the Arabs' interest for Iran to be weak. Iran's strength is Arab strength and vice versa. Why this sensitivity? Why should Iran's strength be considered to be directed against the Arabs? [passage omitted]

If Iran purchased arms, such arms would never be aimed at the Arabs, and Arab arms are not necessarily directed against Iran. We and you are supposed to strengthen ourselves but not against one another. Iran's strength is not a threat to the Arabs, and Arab strength is not a threat to us. [passage omitted]

Regarding the independent Islamic republics, formerly of the Soviet Union, we believe that it is our duty to help them after 70 years under communist rule. We help them to remain Islamic states. I hope that Iran and Saudi Arabia will jointly help these Islamic republics, which have returned to the Islamic world, and they do need help to advance and exploit their resources. [passage omitted]

Regarding relations with Sudan, I do not see how they affect Arab-Iranian relations. I do not know why they are broached like this. We do not see that our relations with Sudan as a threat to others or to the security of any other country; nor do we establish realtions with Sudan to undermine security and stability in any other country. We have no ambitions in Sudan, and we do not regard our ties with Sudan as being directed against any other country. There is no Iranian military presence in Sudan. We have ties with all the Arab states. [passage omitted]

[al-Bunyan] What about Iran's funding arms deals for Sudan?
[Hadi] I know nothing about such deals.

[al-Bunyan] How do you view Iranian-Gulf relations, particularly Iranian-Saudi relations?
[Hadi] There is an Iranian political decision to strengthen and expand relations with the neighbors, especially our neighbors in the South, particularly Saudi Arabia. The only Iranian change has been a change in the interest of the states of the region. We have come to seek rapprochement and solidarity with the Islamic states. Iran is a strategic dimension of the Arab world, and the Arab world is a strategic dimension of Iran. I believe that no non-Arab country is closer to the Arab states than Iran.

I see the Islamic world as a world with two wings. It cannot fly without its two wings, namely, the Iranian Islamic Republic and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

[al-Bunyan] What about your relations with the United States and the West?
[Hadi] We believe that it is too early to contemplate restoring Iranian-American relations. Some obstacles still exist, but if they want to restore relations with Iran—because it was they who severed them—the Americans must give us back our assets that they froze and must change their policy toward us.

Regarding the Western states, we have diplomatic and trade relations with most of them.

[al-Bunyan] What is the truth about your relations with Israel during the war with Iraq?
[Hadi] These are just Israeli lies. They make accusations against us, because we are an Islamic state taking a position against them. Can they prove that Iran received arms from Israel? Iran does not recognize Israel. It is even opposed to peace talks with it.